



# FINANCIAL TIMES

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## News Summary

RAL

BUSINESS

### Ister: Equities my lose 5.6 laid-up on week begins

LONDON EQUITIES ended the Account on a more shaky note after Thursday's technical rally. Leaders' gains were modest in quiet, featureless



trading. The index, up 1.2 per cent in the morning, ended at 395.9, a gain of 1. This represents a loss on the week of 5.6. Gains improved after this trading.

• GOLD fell 15c in \$42.60.

• TREASURY BILL RATE rose 0.0659 per cent to \$5.6201 per cent. London Discount Market Association members have abandoned the common buying rate for prime three-month bank-accepted bills. Back Page

• THE £ rose 1/2c to \$2.413.

• THE \$ WAS AT ITS FLOOR again on the Paris market in fairly calm trading. Page 13

• WALL STREET's index closed up 1.15 at \$50.61.

• IN THE WORLD BANK'S first fund-raising operation to London for 12 years, vice-president Sir Alan Alderweireld yesterday signed the subscription agreement for an offer for sale of £10m. S per cent stock, 1976, at par. Page 14

Eden to meet UCS stewards

• UPPER CLYDE Shipbuilders senior shop stewards will meet Industry Minister Sir Alan Eden in London on Monday to discuss "alternative proposals" for the bankrupt group's future. They are expected to argue on basically similar lines to Mr. Wilson's proposal to keep UCS in its present form for five years and help it along with "pre-production" orders from the Government. However, Sir John said yesterday that while he was "very open-minded," he did not think the plan formed a basis for negotiation. Back Page

• REPORT FROM AMONG 200 of Britain's leading companies for the CBI's price restraint initiative has been extremely satisfying, said Sir John Partridge, CBI president. A full report is to be given next week. Page 11

• UNION NEGOTIATORS for London's 4,000 riverside dockers were told by employers yesterday that their offer of a 5 per cent increase in bonus payments and the basic weekly rate of £27.50 could not be improved. They also rejected demands for a five-hour cut to the work week. Page 13

• FIRST WALL STREET reactions to the McChesney Martin report on the future of the U.S. securities business were mixed. Its greatest supporters were found among more conservative elements despite the fact that the report recommends several fundamental changes. Page 9

BIDS

• AMALGAMATED Investment and Property has increased its bid for Edgar Investments from 150p to 175p a share, lifting the valuation of the company from £28m. to £39.15m. Last night Samuel Montagu, Edgar's advisers, said it was too early to comment on the new terms. Amalgamated also announced an expected pre-tax profit for the year to March 31 of £1.48m. Its shares rose 6p to 190p on the news. Page 13; Lex

briefly...

head-on smash between a light train and a bus packed with day trippers took 35 lives in Belgium.

Five people (four from one family, including three children) died in the crash of an Army Chinook with a lorry on the A36 near Solihull.

First Test: Hingworth (107) and ever (88) put on record elbowed 183 in England recovery to 85. India were 80 when had not stopped play. Page 18

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES

Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated

RISES

Gold, Invest. 290 + 8

British Rail 466 + 81

British Match 178 + 4

Collingwood Group Founder 36 + 7

Court Line 135 + 4

Dordt 134 + 6

General Accident 176 + 5

Nettling Motor 121 + 6

Kinloch 423 + 71

Kwik Save 187 + 18

Lees Refrigeration 74 + 81

Mercury Securities 186 + 6

Muirhead 33 + 4

Newark (Louis) 160 + 5

Parkinson

Sir Lindsay 178 + 51

Smith (David) 42 + 6

Sovereign Securities 91 + 8

Speci. (J. W.) 128 + 6

Legal and General 314 + 8

De Beers Defd. 198 + 11

Staplegreen 352 + 8

## Strikers at Swan Hunter to vote on pay peace formula

BY MICHAEL HAND, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH SHIELDS, August 6. Another effort is to be made on Sunday to try to settle the strike of 2,800 general workers which last Monday closed the five Tyne shipbuilding yards of Swan Hunter and put another 7,500 men out of work. Only a few hours after the men at a mass meeting at Wallsend to-day had rejected a new pay offer from the management by a massive majority the two sides came together for further talks.

These lasted more than three hours at the Newcastle regional headquarters of the men's union—the General and Municipal Workers. Taking part in the discussions were Mr. Tom McIver, joint managing director of the consortium, and Mr. Harold McIntyre, deputy managing director, Mr. Ken Baker, the union's national shipbuilding officer, Alderman Andrew Cunningham, regional secretary, and Mr. Bill Porter, district organiser.

A statement issued after the talks said that a more favourable formula on wages as well as other matters was agreed to. The proposals will be put to a meeting of shop stewards to-morrow, and a mass meeting of the strikers will be called at Wallsend on Sunday morning.

Failure to reach a settlement on Sunday would be a serious blow to the company which has suffered a £10m. loss on its shipbuilding activities over the past two years. Work on ships worth £80m. to £100m. is being held up by the strike which is costing the company £200,000 a week in overheads alone. It has well over £200m. worth of work on its order books.

Earlier Mr. Baker had expressed disappointment that the men had turned down the offer made by the management only a few minutes before to-day's mass meeting, but in view of their long-standing pay grievances he understood their feelings.

Mr. McIver said the rejected offer would have given the men an immediate increase in earnings averaging 11 per cent, rising to 16 per cent in five months' time.

The Government might well regard this as unhelpful to its pay restraint policy although the union would say it was more than justified on low pay grounds.

Those on the top rate are at present on basic weekly earnings of just over £19 but at the lower end of the scale there are men on a wage of £15 plus guaranteed bonuses of just over £1.

In negotiations earlier this week the company offered the top group new weekly earnings of £20.80, immediate pay £21.60 a year later. When Mr. Baker met his shop stewards shortly before to-day's mass meeting to tell them of this new offer they felt there was hope of acceptance if there could be a further small improvement.

The management then agreed to round up the figures to £21.62 and £23 respectively with proportionate increases for the lower grades provided it resulted in an immediate return to work.

But at the mass meeting only three men put up an estimated 2,000 votes to accept the offer which was then withdrawn.

The management had also promised that if the craftsmen won cost of living increases

Continued on Back Page

Surprised

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Continued on Back Page

Joint move

The general aim of the various French moves this week is to stop speculation on a franc revaluation, is accepted, and the measures are expected to be the desired effect. It is still argued, however, that it will be necessary to get to grips with the underlying problem of the dollar's weakness. If possible through a joint European initiative.

"This additional supply is likely to depress the market even further, or at least to hold freight rates at the all-time 'lows' to which they have recently sunk."

Most of the tankers lying idle in the Gulf have found work during the past two weeks, adds Eggar Forrester, but only as a result of their having accepted heavily reduced rates. Since this time last year the tanker freight index has fallen 150 points from Worldscale 210 to Worldscale 60.

No interest

With buying interest almost non-existent for second-hand tonnage and with a large number of shipowners and operators "getting away from it all" to their holidays, prices of second-hand ships have fallen appreciably, says Eggar Forrester.

But the brokers point out that, in contrast, "shirovards of the world are working to record order books, which in many cases stretch into 1974" and 1975, and even beyond. Costs of new ships have virtually doubled in the past four years and there are still few signs of any weakening of their utilization.

The report warns European shipbuilding centres that new yards are being established in such countries as Brazil, Peru and Korea where "labour costs are lower and are likely to remain so in the years to come."

Demand for supertankers, combination and bulk carriers is

of modern ships to remain in business was evidenced recently in the time-charter sector where 62,000-ton bulk carrier accepted 90 U.S. cents per deadweight ton for a trip from Rotterdam to the River Plate, with the option of a round voyage—probably the lowest rate of hire since the war. Another ship of 39,500 tons was fixed for \$1.80 per ton for six months time-charter from September, with the option of 12 months at \$1.75 per ton.

Chartering on a voyage basis has tapered off considerably recently during a traditionally quiet season. Transatlantic grain charter rates have remained to between 500,000 tons over the past two weeks. But up to \$2.75 per ton f.o.b. has been paid for early grain shipments from the U.S. Gulf to Continent—a recovery of 50 cents from the post-war "low" established in June but still well under the peak of \$7.75 per ton paid a year ago.

PROPERTY INVESTMENT

ON OTHER PAGES

## RB-211 talks complete in matter of weeks—Haughton

BY RAY DAPTER

MR. DANIEL HAUGHTON, chairman of Lockheed, said in London yesterday that he hoped the final round of negotiations over the TriStar airliner and the Rolls-Royce RB-211 engines would be completed within a matter of weeks.

These negotiations and discussions include conditions relating to the price, supply and performance of the British-built engines; arrangements for bank loans and the renewal of options to buy the TriStar by Delta and Air Canada.

Good

Mr. Haughton met Mr. Frederick Corfield, Minister for Aerospace, to discuss the latest developments. Also present were Lord Cole, chairman of Rolls-Royce (1971), and Mr. Ian Morrow, deputy chairman and managing director.

Afterwards Mr. Haughton commented: "We have a good meeting. Our purpose is to put the programme back together and it is coming back together."

He was confident that by 1980 Lockheed would receive enough orders to more than break even.

At present Lockheed has 178 orders or deposit-backed options.

Mr. Haughton reiterated his view that break-even would come between 256 and 285 sales; this is at least 100 fewer than the estimate by the Pentagon.

The Lockheed chairman foresees the growth of air travel continuing at an average of about 10 per cent a year throughout this decade, and he was optimistic that the American economy would recover prompting its own growth of air travel.

Asked whether he considered that the collapse of Rolls-Royce and the financial difficulties would affect confidence in the TriStar, Mr. Haughton replied

that the engine maker now had the backing of the British Government and the backing of the American Government. This must be a foundation for confidence, he said.

Mr. Haughton who is continuing his discussions with Rolls-Royce (1971) in Derby to-day, added: "This is going to be the best aeroplane, and people like to buy the best."

Lockheed announced yesterday that it had completed a quarter of the TriStar flight test programme. The three aircraft now flying have between them made more than 40 fully-automatic landings. Their total flying time is almost 420 hours.

The full flight test programme involves more than 1,000 flights by five aircraft and is due to finish with type certification and deliveries to airlines in mid-April 1973.

MAN OF THE WEEK Back Page

RB-211 talks complete in matter of weeks—Haughton

BY RAY DAPTER

GENERAL ACCIDENT 176 + 5

NETTLETON MOTOR 121 + 6

KINLOCH 423 + 71

KWIK SAVE 187 + 18

LEES REFRIGERATION 74 + 81

MERCURY SECURITIES 186 + 6

MUIRHEAD 33 + 4

NEWARK (LOUIS) 160 + 5

PARKINSON

SIR LINDSEY 178 + 51

SPECI. (J. W.) 128 + 6

SMITH (DAVID) 42 + 6

Sovereign Securities 91 + 8

TRUMAN HANBURY 133 + 8

TRUST HOUSES FORTE 121 + 5

CEYLON TEA 131 + 6

GENERAL ACCIDENT 176 + 5

FALLS 132 + 10

ALEXANDER DISCOUNT 220 + 10

BOOK OF NEW S. WALES 228 + 10

The week in London and

# All change in the property sector

Equities started this week the way they finished off last, and by Wednesday night the FT Industrial 30 Share Index had fallen a straight 12 points on the three days. The past couple of days have brought stability—leaving the FT Industrial Index with a net fall of 5.6 points on the week at 385.9—but it has been difficult to decide how much this has been to do with a firmer tone on Wall Street or with bear closing at the end of the account. A big slice of the rise came late on Thursday with the early news from Wall Street, and the underlying trend has not been encouraging with falls outnumbering rises even on

no-change earnings forecast

brought a short, sharp reaction in the price.

Speculative situations, however, have suffered the worst in the past couple of weeks if the performance of old friends like Limmer, British Printing or Lesney is any guide. That may be no surprise in the reaction in last month's aggressive buying of aqutities. The value of turnover in equities in July jumped 46 per cent to a peak of £1,534.3m, which is 10 per cent. higher than in January 1969 when the last bull market was peaking out. In the last four months, turnover has been 45 per cent higher than in the four months to January 1969: the later period coincides with the abolition of short term capital gains tax, but that cannot explain last month's rise.

The scope for variation in property valuations is enormous. The basic point of the appropriate multiple of rental income which should be applied, opinions can range between 12 and 15 times for good office property (and even, some brokers suspect, 18 times). There are different ways of adjusting for leases on property. And some companies—particularly in take-over situations—have taken to assessing their loan capital at the market value of £20p. But using a multiple of 15 and a less severe rate of discount it would be easy to reach a figure 100p higher.

In conclusion, the name of the property share evaluation game has changed. In 1967 it was enough to pick out a reputable share standing at a useful discount on net assets and with plenty of gearing.

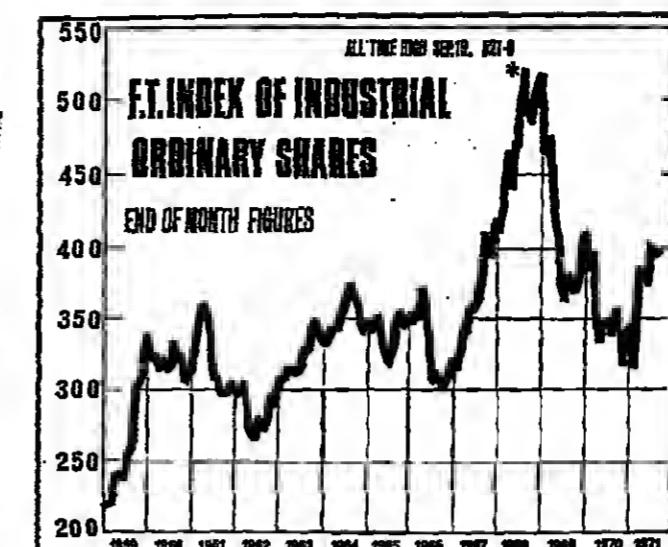
To-day and progressively so for some time, relative performance with property shares will tend only to be achieved by sophisticated assessment not only of completed properties and future development but also of the quality and value of existing borrowing, of the nature of future financing arrangements, and of the hidden gearing and future potential equity value in leaseholds or sale and leaseback

arrangements. At some stage confidence in the validity of the valuation process will be undermined and then the game will be over.

## Hay's scheme

Besides AIP, a number of other developers are involved in various bits of the Hay's scheme, including London Merchant Securities and St. Martin's. The only way to value the Hay's shares is to work out some sums on the basis of the firm's year net revenue which the company expects to receive in perhaps seven or eight years' time. Capitalising this on a 12 times multiple and discounting it to arrive at the present value could give a fairly conservative asset value of 820p. But using a multiple of 15 and a less severe rate of discount it would be easy to reach a figure 100p higher.

In conclusion, the name of the property share evaluation game has changed. In 1967 it was enough to pick out a reputable share standing at a useful discount on net assets and with plenty of gearing. To-day and progressively so for some time, relative performance with property shares will tend only to be achieved by sophisticated assessment not only of completed properties and future development but also of the quality and value of existing borrowing, of the nature of future financing arrangements, and of the hidden gearing and future potential equity value in leaseholds or sale and leaseback



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## Debenhams' sales game

The 9 per cent sales increase after 26 weeks of 1971-72 reported at the Debenhams AGM this week is spot on the department store average, and is virtually all made up by price increases. Stock losses on the recent purchase tax cuts will be comparatively low—it's wholesaling arrangements mean that a low proportion of stocks are duty paid—but first half profits will probably show little change. The impact of the mini-budget has been masked by the "sales" last month, yet volume should be on a rising trend through the key second half which, with the stock turn continuing to improve, could point to earnings approaching 13p per share against 10.6p last time. The shares at 215p, are not leaning on the development value of the Wigmore Street site—just as well, since planning permission has not yet been obtained.

## Debenhams' sales

driving nearly two weeks of post-mini-budget excitement—were just 5 per cent up on the previous year. Judging by its forecast, Glynwed is not banking on any major demand increase for motor components in the current half, while Tuesday brought news that over a quarter of Automotive Products' original equipment work force was moving on to short time.

This might have looked sinister for AP given the covetous eyes that are being cast at its clutch monopoly. In fact, however, GKN's attack on the market is running behind schedule and its share of the automotive clutch market is still tiny. Quinton Hazell is still claiming inroads into the replacement market, but it looks as though AP—like Associated Engineering but unlike GKN—is simply going through a lull. Lucas is also introducing short-time work: the probable explanation is that, on top of the normal summer slackness, the demand pattern has been distorted for the moment by hopes and fears on the labour front earlier this year. Optimists, for example, could argue that the fact that the component manufacturers are not anxious to build up their stocks is a hopeful indication of their current views on the industrial relations outlook. But there can now be little hope for a worthwhile improvement in demand this year.

So it was curious to see that AP share price gaining fresh strength this week—it is almost double the 1971 low—given the importance of marginal sales and the fact that the nearer GKN gets to full-scale clutch production, the less likely becomes that old chestnut—a bid for AP.

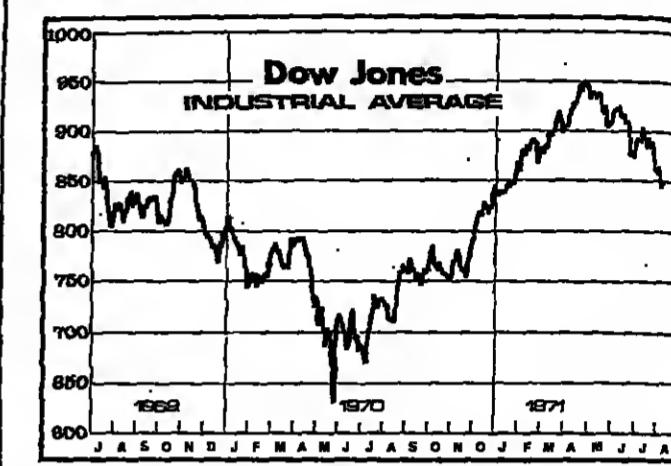
## Onlooker

THIS WEEK on Wall Street did nothing to dispel fears that began to surface last week, when the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost nearly 30 points, that all was not well in the U.S. economy. In the course of this week, when some pretty wild fluctuations occurred, the Dow, somewhat abysmally, managed to find itself a full 100 points below the bouncy level of 950 that it touched just over three months ago on April 28; and if the fall in the value of the average was a little more than 10 per cent, the decline in confidence over the management of the economy was considerably greater.

If that were not bad enough, the bank stressed that it was not motivated by local factors but by a number of other bigger banks, most notably the aggressive First Pennsylvania, caused a stir taking the increase seriously as though it might go on.

The worth of Treasury Secretary Connally, immediately cast itself on the banking community but that did no good at all.

In sum, Tuesday was a thoroughly depressing day (the rain poured down) and Dow responded by losing 14 points to 850.63, one of the sharpest daily falls this year in a new six-month low.



Wednesday started as bad but found a bit of what was described as "technical bounce" about lunchtime, only to lose in the afternoon and end down another 5.11.

The week was also marked by several items of micro, as opposed to macro, interest. The most heavily traded stock was International Telephone and Telegraph, which last week entered into the largest out-of-court settlement in anti-trust history. It was a fascinating agreement, requiring ITT to sell off subsidiaries bringing \$1,000m. a year in order to gain a market worth a similar amount. Its long term importance, in as far as it affects all conglomerates, is probably greater than the short term, but it was the latter consideration that exercised the analysts this week.

They concluded that ITT was giving up so much that it would not be able to maintain its 10 per cent. a year growth rate.

## MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	Y'day 395.9	Change on Week — 5.6	1971 High 413.2	1971 Low 305.3	Overshadowed by Wall Street
Audio Fidelity	67	+18	67	324	Higher dividend and profits
BSA	273	-204	85	25	Serious financial position
Botswana RST	250	-70	490	220	Metallgesellschaft pulls out
Bovril	466	+16	466	172	Fresh bid developments
British-American Tobacco	357	-22	391	265	Disappointing interim results
British Petroleum	408	-19	428	403	Wall Street influences
British Sugar	253	+45	255	122	Good int. stnt./profits forecast
Brown (John)	150	+21	172	100	Following preliminary figures
Bydand	34	-16	70	30	Forecast poor result for 1970-71
Dorseter (Daniel)	51	+10	53	24	Lockheed loan guarantee
Dordash	154	+10	155	110	Blow from Foseco Minsep
Kinloch	423	+37	424	272	Higher interim dividend & profits
Macarthy's Pharmaceuticals	102	+12	105	46	Good annual results
Star (Great Britain)	104	+16	106	100	Aggressive demand/bid hopes
Town and City Properties	123	+22	135	74	Good results/assets revaluation
West Rand Invest. Trust	855	+30	865	687	Gold price; currency fears
West Riding Worsted	661	+25	67	32	Bid from Coats Patons
Western Mining	140	-20	247	140	Disappointing annual results
Whim Creek	210	+38	335	41	Ruth Well nickel assays

## Back to reality in the motor sector

Motor component manufacturers like Birmid, Quascast, Associated Engineering, Ransome Hoffmann or Smiths—have been dominating the relative share price performance lists recently: this was the week when the faes had to get their feet back on the ground. June's weekly average output of private cars was 10 per cent below both the May and June, 1970, levels, and HP contracts to July—in

## Onlooker

quarterly report issued this week has been undoubtedly encouraging, but in share market terms encouragement is not enough: Poseidon needs to work wonders to restore its image of the "Windarra Wonder". Latest development values at the property are right up to the mark and the neighbouring Union Oil-Homestake-Hanna Union's find continues to suggest that there is a good deal more ore to be found in Poseidon's ground.

Others may also take heart from the fact that the sale by tender of shares in the ill-fated Mineral Securities Australia portfolio appears to be very well subscribed. Latest news is that pretty well all the company's creditors may be paid off in full, but it is unlikely that there will be anything left over for the unfortunate ordinary shareholders that are old and patient for a little longer.

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Still, as I pointed out last week, the clearing up of the crash will release a lot of money and much of it is bound to be reinvested in the Australian Mining market. This week the Union Corporation group and associates has had its \$12.3m. (15.7m. tyc) tender accepted for the May and June, 1970, levels, and HP contracts to July—in

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But what the market wants is a cut-and-dried financing plan and a more ambitious production schedule. Well, Poseidon has confirmed that a production financing proposal has been made by Anglo American Corporation and that talks are also going on with the U.S. trio on a

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Still, as I pointed out last week,

remain Your savings and investments

# Distillers should be seeing the better trading climate

By STANLEY GUYER AND WILFRID PICKARD

SO OF Scotch whisky in the market increased by 13.9 per cent. last year and more made good the previous drop. This had followed duty increases on whisky in March 1968 and April 1969.

Similarly shipments to overseas markets moved sharply by nearly 16 per cent. and all-important but increasingly competitive U.S. market by 10 per cent.

steeply rising costs were relieved until the autumn the Distillers Company increased its price increases to break a hitherto nine-year stand-still. All previous increases had been due to duty. But the rise did come soon enough to save a the distillers from reported lower profits.

International Distillers and Vintners whose 1969 profits

The Distillers Company itself managed no more than a 4 per cent improvement at the pre-tax level although this was among the best from the industry. But with the company's finance requirements satisfied by the £40m. Unsecured Loan Stock issue on top of the sale of £4.1m. nominal of its BP holding that raised possibly £20m. and with a price rise due for exports the share price is at what looks to be a buying level. At 153p Distillers yielding 4.2 per cent with a p/e of 16.2 is likely to stay among the leaders in any market improvement bearing in mind that whisky sales worldwide are still in growth phase and maintaining the 9 to 10 per cent annual average increase.

International Distillers and Vintners whose 1969 profits

had been a revival of interest in tobacco shares. In brokers have been doing their recommendations in sector based on a combination of relatively high yields and rating prospects.

course, overhanging the ion there is the shadow of the Government's anti-smoking campaign. But sales of tobacco have been very poor in the past. The initial reaction to the report of the College of Physicians was a drop of 10 per cent. However, consumption has since recovered and should most back to the former by the end of the year.

the first half of the current year Imperial Tobacco came out with pre-tax of £35.8m.—a rise of 7 per cent. Myers and Co. in recent study of the group, as a rise of 5.5 per cent. £6m. for the full year with the improvement of 21 per cent. to £75.2m. by 1973.

There is still scope for IMPs to increase its cigarette market above the present 67.5 per cent.

Although the diversification into foods has not as yet been very successful, this is an area of big potential.

## COMMODITY SHARES

# Buyers only in the tea share market

By JAY PALMER

HOUGH THE TEA sector has always been a notoriously difficult market, over the past six months or so it seems to have become more difficult than ever. Take for example one of the larger and more popular issues, Assam Darjeeling. A year ago one could easily deal in 10,000 shares but too much difficulty. Last week the jobbers were quoting in 2,500 or alternatively the nominal price for 5,000. has been more or less the norm throughout the sector. With the dealers ever willing to take in stock but largely unable to sell, the trouble seems to come from a lack of any shares on the market. This is the fault of the big unit trusts and the re-oriented institutions.

### some funds

I pointed out in this on two weeks ago, during 1969-70 equity bear market unit trusts found it much easier to extol the virtues of the trusts and this resulted in a boom of such funds. In the rubber sector, which received the lion's share of the cash so raised, there was enough to place as to dry up supply. Then in these circumstances, the sector saw a good level of turnover. Not only were new funds mopping up such stocks as came onto the market, but there was also a level of inter-trust switching.

Whether such a dominance in the sector by relatively few funds is a good or bad thing is her question, but it did not work against the private individual as long as it created a movement of stock.

This is affected by the fact that the prospects for the 1971 crop look healthy. While the commodity sectors are of necessity short-sighted, they cannot afford to ignore the possibility of profits and dividends being restored in 1972. At the moment, there is an uneasy compromise between the immediate fears and the longer-term hopes with the main emphasis, as always, on the former.

That is the overall position. Narrowing the shares down

cigarette should help sustain a further increase in earnings. With almost one-third of the King Size market, the group could gain most from entry into Europe and any resumption in buying of Rhodesian tobacco. There are good short to medium term prospects for the "B" shares at 35p yielding 5.5 per cent.

### POINTS IN BRIEF

LESS THAN two years ago Imperial Metal Industries, ICI's non-ferrous metal subsidiary, offered £5m. for the purchase of Enots. But the terms were turned down as being inadequate. Subsequently this manufacturer of pneumatic control equipment failed to meet its profits forecast and reported first-half earnings for 1970-71 of 48 per cent down.

Now, however, the improved economic climate coupled with the sales drive into Europe offers prospects for major recovery. At 83p the shares are 90 per cent above the low point. But with market capitalisation of no more than £2.9m. the shares should be sold.

company could once more appeal to IMI or to another group seeking a well-run operation in this sector.

Racial Electronic's rapid growth in recent years has been helped by the 40 per cent a year expansion in sales of the lucrative military manpack radios in Africa and Asia. This rate of increase cannot be expected to continue indefinitely. Even if the Clansman radio project for the British Army goes ahead, profit margins are likely to suffer. Quilter Hilton Goodison thinks that the growth rate in earnings will lose momentum and suggests that on any rise in the price the shares should be sold.

On the other hand, the industry cannot demonstrate that it can police itself in current circumstances. The fact that an LOA member can say it no longer wants to play the traditional game makes nonsense of the set-up—as indeed does the V & G saga.

Now we have a whole new style of life assurance and a new breed of salesmen to go with it. Nowadays, marketing is the operative word and this means direct sales forces, which sometimes have only the one contract to sell, newspaper advertisements showing impressive properties (in the case of property bonds), carefully worded sales patter with which to lure investors, and attractive commission rates in order to penetrate the market as rapidly as possible. Such practices have ruffled more than a few feathers in the establishment. And it has taken some time for the traditional groups

to overcome their indignation and follow suit. The subject of commission rates remains a hot issue, but then it is no secret either that other methods have been found to reward the more vigorous salesmen.

The 1967 Insurance Companies Act lays down some strict regulations for life assurance companies formed after that Act, and it is from this direction that most of the noise is coming at the moment—in particular from the property bond operators. Different groups see dangers in different things, but the one aspect on which they all seem to agree is that the Committee should widen its brief to look at the life assurance industry as a whole. And this is probably fair comment.

Peter Hutley, a leading figure in the property bond movement and one of the drafters of the much-publicised Property Bond Code of Conduct, has made rather less fuss than some over his evidence; but his views are no less valid for that. In fact, his ideal probably rank among the most constructive to date.

One small point of inconsistency is that Hutley is negotiating on behalf of Property Growth Assurance Ltd, of which he is deputy chairman and managing director, for membership of the LOA, yet is calling strongly for greater disclosure—something that is not advocated by the latter organisation.

However, the backbone of

Hutley's recommendations is that an Insurance Commission should be set up under the guidance of a Commissioner, brought from the ranks of the industry, to control day-to-day insurance policy. Legislation would be moulded by this body and anyone stepping out of line would be reported to the Department of Trade and Industry to apply the appropriate chastisement—it is a fine or suspension from trading.

The DTI already has sufficient powers to stop any company trading virtually at the drop of a bat. But since there is no avenue for appeal this would appear to be a sledgehammer and nut situation for most cases. And this probably accounts for the fact that the DTI rarely exercises its power.

Predictably, Property Growth is a post-1967 company and as such has to supply the DTI with quarterly accounts and copies of all advertising material for approval. Companies formed before that Act—and that includes semi-defunct companies that have been bought up and geared specifically to sell unit-linked contracts—are exempt from these regulations and Hutley is asking (quite reasonably) for the same sort of regulations to apply to everyone—regardless of size. Naturally, this would be on a purely discretionary basis, and he argues that a small body—which fully understands the industry—could successfully apply the rules without DTI involvement.

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## Finance and the family

## Splitting a trust fund

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

I have a life interest in my late wife's estate, the remainderman being a hospital. Would it be possible for me to apply for the trust to be wound up and the fund split between us? If so, should I apply to the hospital? There is no reason at all why you should not approach the hospital with a view to the two of you splitting up the trust fund between you. The trustees will have to be protected against any estate duty which might become payable on the part taken by the hospital if you were to die within a year of the division, but this can be simply taken care of by a suitable insurance. Your plan is perfectly feasible, and does not require any application to the Court.

## Adding a first name

Is there a legal method of adding a first name to my two Christian names? If not, are there any legal difficulties in assuming the name, for example in renewing a passport or proving documents?

Strictly, one can only change, or add to, one's surnames on confirmation, when the Bishop may effectively make a change. Otherwise, there is no method of doing so, and although no law is being broken if you sign yourself A. B. C. Jones instead of B. C. Jones, it is the latter form which remains your true full name.

There would be no difficulties about legal documents, but you would strictly be called upon to sign them B. C. Jones (otherwise known as A. B. C. Jones).

## A solicitor willing to act

As trustee of a settlement, I have been unable to persuade a solicitor to take steps to have the trustee, an accountant, removed, apparently on the grounds that they will not act against fellow professionals. How, then, can the matter be brought before the Court?

We do not think that the accusation you make against solicitors in general is correct: at any rate, every time some-

thing to this effect appears in our columns lots of solicitors write in hating denouncing it. If you have any difficulty in finding a solicitor to take on your case, apply to the Law Society, 113, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2. This is the solicitors' own organisation, and they will give you the names of solicitors who will certainly be willing to act for you.

## Flexible insurance

I am in the middle of professional exams, which will probably not be behind me for nine years, and have no dependants, but it has been suggested to me that I take out a "flexible" insurance policy. Are there such policies, and how do I find the best company?

Except to get a foothold so to speak with a life assurance policy, we suggest that it may be premature for you yet to buy. Better to invest your savings which cannot be large, against say a deposit for house purchase; then when you are qualified you can assess your insurance needs more accurately and buy accordingly.

However, if you wish to buy now, a convertible term policy is undoubtedly your best buy, and for a company, we suggest you consult insurance brokers.

## A squatter in Scotland

In a reply last year dealing with the case of a squatter who had lived in a house in Edinburgh for 40 years, you said he could not claim a possessory title. Why, after 12 years, could he not do so?

Under Scots law a squatter without any farm of right or title to the land can never acquire any right merely by presence for any length of time. He never acquires a possessory title.

## A gift of share

The nearest relatives of a cousin of mine who is unwilling to make a will are nieces and nephews, one of the former being illegitimate. Will we inherit anything from my cousin?

The illegitimate niece will

definitely not share unless a will is made. Under the Family Law Reform Act of 1969 no distinction is made between legitimate and illegitimate children so far as their own parents are concerned, but this does not apply to the distribution of the estates of collateral persons (such as uncles and aunts) on an intestacy.

## A legacy in dollars

I recently became entitled to a legacy of some \$35,000. Must I transfer it to my bank promptly? Could the money legally be used to buy a property in Spain, for example? Under the U.K. regulations any U.S. dollar cash balances you acquire as a result of a legacy would in the ordinary way have to be converted into sterling. You would be able to retain U.S. dollar securities received in this way, but you would (under current practice) never be able to sell them for the investment currency premium. You would be able to use the proceeds to purchase a property in Spain only by purchasing investment currency (at the

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the FINANCIAL TIMES for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible. No charge is made for this service.

going premium rate of exchange).

But we would point out that if the legacy was used to acquire a property in Spain (or, if in cash, used to purchase foreign currency investments) before transfer was made to you, you would be entitled to retain the property (or the investment), without paying the investment currency premium.

## Trust running expenses

Is there any way of obtaining a refund of tax deducted at the source, in respect of the expenses of running a trust? The expenses of running a trust do not give rise to an income tax refund for the trust. However the income applied to meet expenses of the trust is not apportioned among the beneficiaries. This means that there can be a consequential saving by the beneficiaries of tax on the income which has been applied to meet trust expenses.

## Joint house and a guarantee

In the event of a bank pressing for payment of an overdraft which is personally guaranteed what is the position with regard to a husband and wife jointly-owned house valued at £12,000 (with a mortgage of £5,000)? Could the husband who guaranteed the loan be forced to sell his half? What pressures if any could be put on the wife to sell her half share?

We consider that if the bank was prepared to make the husband bankrupt, they would probably obtain an Order for the sale of the house, and a division of the proceeds of sale equally between the husband and wife. This would provide a sum of £3,500 which could go towards the reduction of the overdraft.

There is no question of any pressure on the wife to sell her half share: the house is already held on trust for sale and division of the proceeds, and the only question is whether a Court would order a sale. We consider that where the husband is bankrupt they would

## Insurance

Mistakes in proposals

BY JOHN PHILIP

WITH MOST insurances, and particularly in the field of personal insurances — life, motor, household, disablement and so on — proposal forms are the time-honoured means by which insurers obtain information about the risks they are being asked to cover. The answers given to the questions on the proposal form are material facts on which insurers decide whether to write the risk, what cover to provide and what premium to charge.

Normally the proposer has to put his signature to the answers he has provided and affirm that the answers are true. To emphasise the materiality of these answers, insurers usually incorporate the proposal form by reference in the policy and declare it to be the basis of the contract of insurance.

## Committed

Once he has put his signature to the proposal form, the proposer will be hard put to it to deny any of the statements made thereon, even if he has not written them in himself but has had assistance in the completion of the form. A recent legal dispute which reached the Court of Appeal provides a salutary reminder of the obligations of the proposer and of his assistants.

The background to O'Connor v Kirby was commonplace. In 1968, Mr. O'Connor had bought a car and sought "comprehensive" insurance. He went to a Mr. Kirby, an insurance broker, who helped him to fill in a proposal form for the Trafalgar Insurance Company Ltd. This form, in the manner of many modern proposal forms, contained a number of "boxes" for the supply of information in answer to insurers' questions. One of these questions asked where the car would normally be garaged.

Mr. O'Connor told Mr. Kirby that he would park the car on the street, but for some reason Mr. Kirby put a tick in the box on the proposal form indicating that the car would be kept in a private garage. When eventually he had completed the form he gave it to Mr. O'Connor to check and to sign. Mr. O'Connor signed the form without rectifying the mistake. The insurers then accepted the proposal and in two subsequent years invited renewal.

In January 1969 Mr. O'Connor's car, which in all the intervening time had not been

written time had not been garaged, was damaged by a hit and run driver while parked on the street outside his house. Faced with a claim for over £200 worth of repairs, the insurers investigated the circumstances and then discovered they had been misled by the wrong statement in the proposal form. They thereupon refused to meet the claim.

Mr. O'Connor took legal advice and seems to have been told that the insurers were on firm ground in refusing to pay, for he then sued Mr. Kirby for damages (the cost of repairs) for negligently completing the proposal form and failing to record the correct answer to the garaging question. His claim was first considered by Judge Forrest in Brentford County Court who held Mr. Kirby liable but discounted the damages by one-third on account of Mr. O'Connor's own contributory negligence in failing to spot the mistake before he signed the form.

Therefore, if the proposal form contains wrong information the effect of this persists from one year to the next, that close on four years later in O'Connor v. Kirby (and there are longer periods of legal record) insurers refuse to pay.

On this aspect another Court of Appeal decision two years ago in Magee v. Peninsular Insurance is important. Once again the dispute centres around a proposal form which this time contained a number of mis-statements including that Mr. Magee was a provisionally licensed driver. In fact, he had never held a licence to drive and had, at that time, just bought the car of his 18-year-old son who held a provisional licence.

## Insurers upheld

Insurers provided "comprehensive" cover. In 1964 Mr. Magee sold the car and bought another, continuing to insure under the same policy. This in April 1965 the second car so badly damaged in a collision as not to be worth repairing. The insurers, in fact, had agreed a figure for settlement with the Magee when they found out the true facts of the case and then thereupon refused to pay. The majority of 2 to 1 the Court of Appeal judges decided that the insurers were correct. They said that although the policy had been renewed three times the insurers had accepted the change of car, the policy was not valid or enforceable because of the mis-statements in the original proposal.

## CAREERS AND EDUCATION

## How upward-bound managers learn by doing

BY MICHAEL DIXON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A TEXAN billionaire wants to create the world's best business school in Dallas. In June he and a wad of other multi-millionaires called a meeting with five deans of local universities.

"One of you deans is going to head up the world's best business school," the billionaire announced. "But you'll have to tussle for it." In September each dean must present a plan saying how his own school would set about becoming the world's best. The men of money will pick the winner and back it without stint.

Under every dean's chair was a brand-new briefcase. "That's to help you with the planning," the billionaire said. Every briefcase contained \$100,000 in cash. That is not a fairy story. Just what each dean is now feverishly planning, I cannot tell. But I do know that at least one — who must remain nameless — has avoided designing a bigger, better and more hallowed Harvard. He has decided that the world's best business school should be centred on the unconventional educational methods pioneered by Professor Reg Revans, managing director of the Belgian Inter-University management programme.

Reg Revans' ideas are not popular among management academics. Some of them can be stimulated by the mere mention of his name, let alone of his lectures or of his book *Developing Effective Managers*. The many criticisms, however, are counterbalanced by the American idea's belief that the professor's methods are the most promising of any now practised. In addition Business Intelligence Service is working to start a Revans-type inter-university programme in Britain next year. Who, then, is right about Reg Revans?

To get some idea of what the consumers think, I went to Brussels and interviewed four managers who have been through the Belgian programme. The students — called fellows — are upward-bound managers usually aged 35-45, and are sponsored by their employers. They are expected to do some preliminary studying, guided by a tutor in one of the five Belgian universities taking part in the programme. This opens with

an eight-week conventional course covering topics such as decision theory, systems, estimating uncertainty, and the psychology of learning, and giving practice in interviewing and designing "action-research" projects.

Action research, or learning-by-doing, is the fellows' fundamental activity during the following eight months.

The projects amount to tackling real strategic problems in the organisations sponsoring fellows at the programme. The aim is that every fellow should carry out his project in an unfamiliar organisation, preferably in a different sector — industry, commerce or public administration. However, this is sometimes frustrated.

**Causes**  
The problems are defined broadly — for example, "We need to use our liquid assets better" — and the fellows spend the next three months trying to diagnose the various, interconnected causes.

In the Belgian programme the fellows then visit the United States for about three weeks to discuss their diagnoses with working managers and business school tutors. In the prospective British programme, the visit is likely to be to Europe.

After the visit the fellows spend the last four months devising ways of overcoming the problems they have studied, and trying to get the organisation concerned to start putting their proposals into practice.

Throughout the programme small groups of fellows meet for about one day a week at one of the university management centres, to discuss their problems and progress with one another and with a member of the university staff.

On the other hand, both of the managers who have done projects in unfamiliar concerns felt that they had had to take bold decisions under pressure.

Yet when asked separately if they thought they could have gained more benefit from any full-time course in any business school in America, Europe or elsewhere, they all answered "No." The two who had attended postgraduate business school courses in the U.S. felt

that the Revans exercise had made them into better managers.

The full-time U.S. course had been more intellectually demanding, but of little practical value.

The practical gains to the individual fellows were all in the human aspects of management. All four Belgian managers thought the Revans programme had made them better able to organise themselves, to manage other people, and to identify and manipulate the real — as distinct from the arduous — power structure in a working organisation.

Gains in technical aspects were considered small. This did not disturb three of the four ex-fellows. "Nothing is very technically sophisticated in top management," one said.

The fourth, however, felt that the emphasis on developing "people" skills could influence the fellows into skimping technical practicals. He would have made more progress with his project — developing computer applications — if the programme had pressed him to give attention to technical difficulties.

This manager was the most academically inclined of the four. He had degrees in engineering and economics, was a U.S. business graduate, and had taught statistics in a university.

He felt the Revans programme might be the better for having some conventional form of examination.

The same man had carried out his project in the electricity supply company which employs him. His belief that he would have benefited more by working in a different concern, however, was moderated by a feeling that fellows who worked in unfamiliar organisations were not put in a position of real responsibility.

"The pressure of an exam would be useful to them," he said, "because they do not have to take hard decisions and stand by them."

On the other hand, both of

## BUSINESSES FOR SALE

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Established and Site Engineering Co., located in leading industrial centre in the West Country. Extensive plant and road network. The Co. is situated in modern premises and has good management and excellent reputation for its work.

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## USMC International Ltd. 9 per cent Guaranteed Loan Stock 1982

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME of USM Corporation &amp; Subsidiaries for period ended May 31, 1971

	Three months Ended May 31, 1971	1970
Gross revenues:		
Sales and other operating income	\$104,043,000	\$9,456,000
Leased machinery revenue	9,550,000	9,532,000
	\$113,593,000	\$108,581,000
Income before incremental income of Transamerican	\$ 2,070,000	\$ 5,751,000
Provision for United States and foreign income taxes	1,194,000	2,875,000
	\$ 866,000	\$ 2,875,000
Minority interest	37,000	47,000
Income before net incremental income of Transamerican	\$ 839,000	\$ 2,829,000
Net incremental income of Transamerican	—	658,000
Net Income	\$ 839,000	\$ 3,487,000
Preferred dividends paid:		
6% Preferred	75,000	75,000
Convertible Preference, \$2.10 Series	388,000	382,000
Net Income after Preferred dividends	\$ 584,000	\$ 33,030,000
Earnings per Common share:		
Income before net incremental income of Transamerican	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.49
Net incremental income of Transamerican	—	.14
Net Income	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.63
Earnings per Common share — assuming full dilution:		
Income before net incremental income of Transamerican	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.48
Net incremental income of Transamerican	—	.12
Net Income	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.60

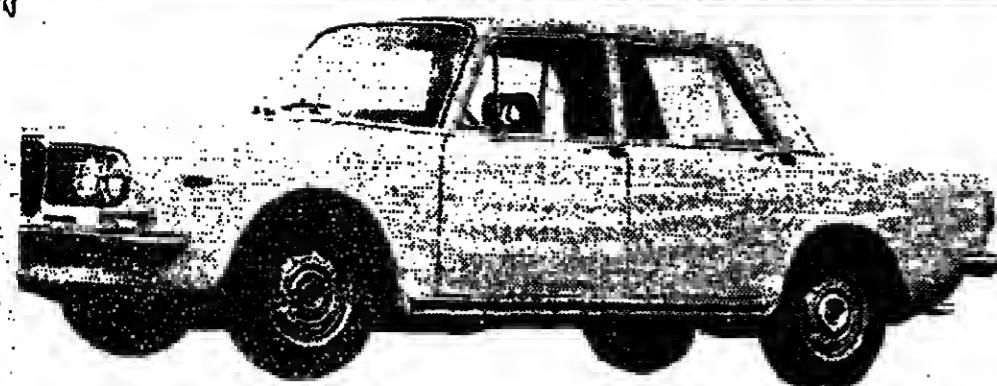
**NOTE:**  
This statement includes the accounts of the Corporation and its equity in all consolidated subsidiaries. The current year is subject to annual audit and year-end adjustments. Fully diluted per share data does not assume full conversion for the Convertible Preference stock.

**USM Corporation**  
Research/Systems/Manufacturing  
Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

## EARN AN EXTRA 2% OR MORE A YEAR ON YOUR CAPITAL, FREE OF INCOME TAX.

The normal return on guaranteed investments is up to 5½%

## Posals Motoring



## In impressive Lancia

DAVID WALKER

A is a well known and expected name in this, even though the cars are comparative here. Their reputation for average performance is enhanced by argue's victory in the Automobile Club Rally at the end of last year. The profit feature is the high price of old-fashioned craftsmanship which has turned out post-war models into classic vehicles.

Fiat takeover two years

allowing mounting losses

fears that this individual

might vanish. These

with the disclosure of

an increase annual produc-

tion 44,000 last year to

1975.

Flavia's latest model, the

will reassure those fearing

leaps of the changes. It

ies most of the marque's

onal virtues, together with

the idiosyncrasies which

undoubtedly irritated

hugers in the past.

car, basically a much im-

Flavia, is unlikely to be

here till the end of

ar, it will probably sell at

£2,200 to £2,300, placing

the gap left by dozoetic

ters between the

2000 TC and Triumph 2.5

£1,750 and £1,800 respec-

and the £2,450 Jaguar XJ6.

will make its main com-

£2,195 BMW 2000.

Lancia and the BMW are

much the same sort of car

luxurious and capable

tained high speed touring

100 mph. Even at its

achieved maximum speed

mph, the Lancia's engine

and the wind noise

Acceleration helped

low second gear, is brisk

the high third gear pro-

rapid overtaking at up to

dry surfaces, the car's

ing is superb. Front wheel

is

drive and Michelin ZX tyres help the 2000 to hug the road, despite its typical front drive characteristic of cornering more tightly as the throttle is lifted off. The well proven suspension system provides an unfashionably soft and extremely comfortable ride, even on continental pavé, but also makes it comparatively easy to ground the exhaust system on really rough light.

Light and direct power steering, with only 3 turns of the

## SPECIFICATION

ENGINE: Four cylinder horizontally opposed unit of 1,991 c.c. producing 115 b.h.p. net at 5,500 r.p.m.

TRANSMISSION: Four speed all synchronised with floor shift.

DIMENSIONS: Length 11 feet 2 inches. Width 5 feet 3 inches. Height 4 feet 11 inches. Weight 24 cwt.

PERFORMANCE: Top speed 108 m.p.h. Acceleration to 60 m.p.h. 12 seconds. Average fuel consumption 22.5 m.p.g.

PRICE: About £2,300 when available in U.K. at the end of this year.

wheel from lock to lock, maintains sufficient feel of the road for the driver always to know that he is firmly in control. On a wet surface, roadholding suffers somewhat, and some caution is necessary. Nevertheless, rainy conditions still permit high average speeds to be achieved.

Servo-assisted disc brakes pull the car up quickly with little pedal pressure. Heavy braking will induce some fade, but recovery is almost instantaneous. The handbrake is highly efficient, though the position of the lever, low down between the front seats, is inconvenient. By contrast, the gear lever is well placed and changes are smooth and fairly fast.

The car's performance is matched by its safety features. The passenger compartment has exceptional rigidity. Dual hydraulic systems minimise the likelihood of brake failure, while a compensator varies braking effort according to load. There is a brake fluid level warning light.

The wooden steering wheel is claimed not to splinter in a crash, and the steering column is designed to be energy-absorbent. Head restraints are standard on the reclining front seats, and there are anchorage points for five safety belts. A heated rear window, a dipping rear view mirror and integrated headlamps are also standard.

The roomy interior has the comforts expected in this class of car, though the poor wood finish of the dashboard is a disappointment. Instrumentation could also be improved, with clear markings instead of the vague coloured lines on the fuel, oil pressure, engine temperature and voltmeter gauges. Minor controls are unmarked and, in the case of the fresh air heater/demister system, unnecessarily complicated.

Storage space within the car is adequate, while the boot is cavernous. An exceptionally high sill, however, makes the loading and unloading of heavy items awkward.

The styling of the 2000 is an improvement on the frankly ugly Flavia saloon, but is still undistinctive. In a typically Italian way, it is distinguished chiefly by the re-appearance of the traditional Lancia grill in front of the front bumper.

Overall, the Lancia 2000 is an exceptionally comfortable and restful car to drive. At its likely price, it should find a small but assured market among those who appreciate fine engineering and attention to detail.

## Golf

## Some thoughts on Europe

BY BEN WRIGHT

THE FIRST thought that springs to mind in trying to assess the new European golf circuit launched this season is how on earth can the majority of British professionals afford to go on playing on it? This is a serious question, not the least prompted by the fact that the last round of drinks I paid for during the Swiss Open Championship at the Sporting Club of Crans-Sur-Sierre—a mixture of remarkably unintoxicating Swiss beer and some cokes—cost exactly £1 per bottle, service included. This is the golf club that charges night club prices after sundown, although the dry air makes one enormously thirsty on finishing a round of golf. It is one of the most unsporting gestures I have encountered in golf, and crippling for young professionals.

At present those anxious to get the sport off the floor in the emergent golfing nations of Europe and elsewhere still find it necessary to pay huge sums in appearance money to lure the world stars from their lairs. In Sweden last autumn the value of securing the services of Jack Nicklaus for the Volvo Open was immediately apparent when Gary Player was encountered in golf, and crippled for young professionals.

## Examples

In case any cynical reader might be tempted to observe that such are the conditions the Continental professionals have been forced to endure in Britain for many years I must cite positive examples. For instance, one well-known English professional, who desperately needed the Ryder Cup points available in the last three weeks at the French, German and Swiss Opens in Biarritz, Bremen and Crans, decided to take his wife for an annual holiday. While he admitted to not having thrown his money about with carelessness, yet the trip left him no change out of £500, and he did not figure too prominently among the cheque winners at any of the three locations.

Another young Ryder Cup hopeful, Aberdonian Harry Bannerman, virtually clinched his place in the British team by making the last day—and some money—in all three championships. He also took along his widowed mother by car for her first ever trip south of London, an unforgettable experience for the lady in question, which cost her son a most generous and praiseworthy outlay. In the region of £300. Bannerman in no way begrimed the money but this former laboratory assistant, one of professional

golf's intelligentsia, reckoned that and his rivals had spent some £30,000 in Switzerland in preparation for the £10,000.

The message is obvious. Prize money must be increased considerably in an even more informed Europe if the circuit is to be practical. There is little doubt that the money is beginning to be available on a continent belatedly awakening to the value of professional golf as a publicity vehicle.

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# How to spend it hopping Italian-style

Elinor Goodman

Every year when I come back Italy I get strange looks from the Customs men. Not use I look particularly ter, but because of the is I cram down the sides y suitcase—at least a dozen sets of instant soup, and the number of bottles of ipoo. Just bothering to cart packet soup and shampoo it, in itself, seems a rather necessary addition to one's age, but when both products the same brand name as ish makes, the whole opera must seem even more tress to the jaded eyes of a ons officer.

ever, it is a sad fact of that even pre-packed meals better abroad—presumably use what is the foreign valent of a mundane, every- British dish like baked

is to us a relative delicacy.

up in my

tease

ike the Knorr soups which ing back in such quantity, really would not believe delicious soup could come of a packet—it's the kind would only expect to get in land in the better kind of a restaurant, or in someone's house where some poor man has been cutting up tables all day—and tastes like the packet soups in this country and de- ped as Italian. These soups to be available in most shops in Italy and cost, on average, about 200 lire (15p)

hella Black is on holiday

four servings. I like the called Pasta e Fagioli del ore best—it is thick and of kidney beans—but I n't found one that wasly disappointing.

s for the shampoo, the one back is made by Dogn the same brand name is in England; but the Italian am seems to suit me better, alth I am prepared to admit it may just be my hair, never, nearly everyone who is our house in Italy goes to England laden with both and Kuorr on my recom- idation.

ul, however, enthusiastic I personally feel about these products, they are neither hem exactly the sort of thing usually takes home for pres- es. Italy is, of course, a yellow place for buying s. It almost goes with saying that wonderful her goods you can buy,



various designs it comes in. They are a little like the Casa Pupo Spanish flowered tiles, but quite definitely Italian. Nearly all have a white base, with different kinds of flowered patterns painted on them. The one I collect is called Anteo Milano and is a mixture of yellow, reddish brown and blue flowers on a white base. Another one I like is called Garrufon and is a mixture of green, blue and yellow again on a white background. The effect of both is very fresh and bright, and surprisingly simple. If you don't want to buy a whole set, or two or three of the large breakfast cups and saucers is a lovely present—they cost 2.200 lire each (about £1.50). But best of all, if you can possibly carry it home, is the magnificent soup tureen which comes in

you want to see the full range, SELAN, will send you a free catalogue. The address is 107, Via Porta Rossa, Florence, and they will give you the postal charges for England on request.

Unfortunately, my own shopping in Italy this year was cut short by my driving our car into a brick wall. I wasn't hurt, but the car was immobilised for a week. However, I can reliably tell you that getting the entire side of a Citroen Safari bashed back into shape costs considerably less in a small town in Tuscany than it does in London. But, be warned, repairing the wall seemed to cost rather more than it would have done in England.

## Blast of cool air

But one word of advice about shopping in Italy, if you have got a few minutes to spare in a large town, and you're just about to expire from heat, go to the nearest Standa or Upim—the two, dare one say it, Marks and Spencer of Italy. Not only do they have an enormous variety of things at fantastically good value, but they are also usually air conditioned. And, that, when the temperature is in the 90s is worth knowing about.

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Long-term future of the oil industry viewed with continuing optimism.

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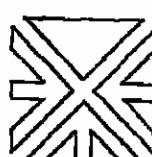
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Saleroom  
COLLECTING WISELY  
Attractions of Parian

BY DAVID ROBINSON

PARIAN porcelain—taking its name from its resemblance to the fine white marble of Paros which Greek sculptors had used since the 6th Century B.C.—was one of the major triumphs of the Victorian ideal of wedding art and industry. The technological mastery and the industrial organisation of the Staffordshire potters made possible the production of a medium worthy to reproduce the finest achievements of the Victorians' favourite sculptors, and to put them within the reach at least of the better-off middle classes.

White "biscuit" (that is unglazed) porcelain had been produced in the 18th century; but the rather hard and chalky effect of Sévres or Derby bisque is quite unlike the soft, marble-like creaminess of the new china that began to appear in the 1840s. No-one quite knows who first developed it, though Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shinn, themselves indefatigable collectors, discuss the competing claims in their useful new book *The Illustrated Guide to Victorian Parian China* (Barrie and Jenkins, £4.50), and conclude that Copeland and Garrett were the first manufacturers to market Parian ware, in 1846, under the name of Statuary Porcelain.

The name Parian was first adopted by Mintons, whose productions came on the market a few months later. Wedgwood entered the field in 1848, calling their ware "Carrara Porcelain." By the time of the Great Exhibition in 1851 eight exhibitors were showing Parian (the term having by this time been accepted as generic) and dozens of smaller manufacturers were in full production. The Shins list 90 makers, though many pieces were unmarked and anonymous.

Quality inevitably varied. The original formula was close to that of Chinese 18th century soft-paste porcelain; and the modelling and moulding was elaborate and laborious. An alabaster master would be cut up and cast in as many as fifty different moulds; and the assembly and firing of the piece were exacting processes fraught with the danger of breakage and distortion due to the high shrinkage in the kiln.

The resulting ware was expensive; and inevitably there were efforts to bring down the cost. A hard paste was developed which was cheaper to work but sacrificed the fine texture and colour. Small firms used simpler moulds, and sometimes simply pirated Minton or Copeland originals. To the end, however, (and Parian seems to have been manufactured right into this century) the best firms continued to produce to the original high standards.

The work of the most celebrated sculptors, from Canova to Gibson and Westmacott, was reproduced in Parian, though all-out favourites were Hirai Powers' Greek Slave from the 1851 Exhibition, and, "above all," Raffaele Monti's "Veiled Head,"

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# Russia attacks British diplomats for "spying"

By MOIRA CUNYNGHAM

FOUR British embassy staff members here, including the naval attaché, were to-night attacked by the Soviet Government newspaper, *Izvestia*, for taking part in illegal intelligence activities. The long account of their "suspicious activities" appears to be the answer to a long dispute between Moscow and London and is presumably Russia's way of answering reports in the British Press earlier this week of alleged spying by Soviet diplomats in London.

Earlier this week, the Soviet Ambassador in London, Mr. Mikhail Smirnov, was called in to see the British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Heath. Douglas-Hamilton supposedly in connection with espionage work carried out by Soviet diplomats and staff.

*Izvestia* names Captain Henry Ellis, naval attaché, his two assistants, Lt.-Cdr. John Dykes and Lt.-Cdr. Anthony Wostenholme, and Mr. Derek Leonard. It gives an account of the journeys made by the naval

attaché to the ports of Leningrad, Tallin and Baku. Lt.-Cdr. Dykes is said to have visited Leningrad 10 times in four months, a matter for suspicion by itself.

While in Leningrad, says the newspaper, their movements were watched and it was noted that they were not interested in the port and shipbuilding and usually ate in the snack bar on the 15th floor of the Sovetskaya Hotel from where one has a good view of the port. The Sovetskaya Hotel is frequently visited by foreign tourists who presumably also use the snack bar. According to *Izvestia*, the diplomats were taking photographs of military installations while travelling into Leningrad on Soviet ships from Helsinki and Mr. Derek Leonard is said to have recruited a spy named as Mr. K.

The article declared that it was time "to consider reducing the staff of service attachés and to put restrictions on their travel." It omitted to say however that their travel was already restricted as it is for any foreigner in the Soviet Union and that they are not allowed beyond a radius of 25 miles from the centre of Moscow without permission.

Michael Simmons, East European Correspondent, writes: Almost certainly, now they have been named, the diplomats will be expelled. Soviet officials about whose activities the Foreign Office have voiced frequent complaints will then be asked to leave London.

But the Foreign Office, still insisting as it has during other expulsion rows earlier this year that formal bi-lateral contacts should go on, said it would receive no official complaint about the men named by *Izvestia*. The British view was that they should be dismissed as a rather fanciful and clumsy attempt to distract from known disruptive activities of the Russians in, for instance, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Sweden and Mexico.

## Gromyko visit

By Our Own Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Aug. 6. SOVIET Foreign Minister Gromyko will arrive here on August 8 for talks with Premier Indira Gandhi and Foreign Minister Swaran Singh amidst reports that India was preparing to recognise "Bangla Desh" as a separate nation.

Though officials are not commenting on the nature of the talks, the speculation here is that Gromyko will try to persuade Mrs. Gandhi and Indian leaders not to precipitate a crisis by such a

step.

## Egypt arrests two Left-wing politicians

By Our Own Correspondent

BEIRUT, Aug. 6. TWO PROMINENT Leftist leaders have been arrested in Egypt for objecting to the suppression of Communists in Sudan, according to reliable information from Cairo. Khalid Mohieddin, generally known as be "Red Officer," was placed under house arrest, while Dr. Ibrahim Saadoun, director of Cairo's Socialist Institute, has been sent to Tora Prison south of the capital.

The two were said to have been behind a statement issued earlier this week in the name of the Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions condemning "the bloody suppression of trade unions in the Sudan." President Sadat, who backed Major General Jaafar Nimeiry in his clampdown on Sudan's Communists, had ordered immediate investigations into the statement and asked that results be referred to him personally.

Mohieddin was a member of the junta which in 1952 carried out the coup that toppled King Farouk. Because of his well-known Communist leanings he later fell out with President Nasser, and lived in exile in East Europe until his return in 1965, when Egypt's Communist Party voluntarily dissolved itself. Mohieddin also is a member of the World Peace Council and a holder of the Lenin Peace Prize.

That he was placed under house arrest instead of being

## Opel raises prices by 3%

By MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

ADAM OPEL AG, the 100 per cent German subsidiary of General Motors, is to follow the example of its parent company in the U.S. and raise its prices with effect from August 16. The new price list has not yet been announced but the average increase will be just under 3 per cent and the maximum increase just under 4 per cent.

This is the first of what is expected to be a general round of price rises in the German car industry, although the companies, including Volkswagen and Daimler-Benz, have yet to make an announcement. The relatively modest Opel increases are attributed to extra fittings affecting safety and pollution protection, in the company's new models. But the other factor is the rising cost of labour and

material. Opel's increases are attributed to extra fittings affecting safety and pollution protection, in the company's new models. But the other factor is the rising cost of labour and

The industry is not looking forward to the annual round of wage negotiations with the metal workers' union IG Metall, in September. These are expected to be every bit as difficult as the prolonged chemical talks earlier this year which ended in agreements of around 3 per cent, after negotiations. The Federal Government, IG Metall will be hard to persuade to settle for less, despite the industry's falling profits. The

## S. African export crisis

By Our Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 6. entry would be extremely difficult, particularly to the country's fruit, wine, meat, egg and grain exports. At present, most of these enjoy preferential treatment on entry into the United Kingdom market in terms of the Ottawa agreement, which will be terminated if Britain joins.

There is a strong possibility that some South African products like apples will be restricted by import quotas. Over £200m. of the country's exports are accorded preferential treatment by Britain in the form of lower import tariffs or duty-free entry, and it is estimated that at least £50m. of this trade will be lost if the U.K. joins. The fruit farmers of the Western Cape would be hardest hit, and would probably have to rely on Government subsidies to stay in business.

The warning is understood to refer to the threat to South African exports of British entry into the Common Market. Official estimates indicate that British

# Wall Street gives mixed reception to McChesney Martin NYSE report

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.

By JUREK MARTIN

EARLY REACTIONS to-day to Mr. Martin's Report on the future of the securities business have been mixed. Although the report recommended several fundamental changes in the industry, ironically its greatest supporters appeared to be found in the more conservative element on Wall Street, while its sharpest critics tended to represent what might be called the "forces of change."

This dichotomy stems from two key proposals in the report, details of which were made public yesterday. The first is that institutions should not be allowed to become Stock Exchange members, while the second is that more time and study is needed to ascertain whether or not negotiated commission rates on stock transactions are desirable.

Both ideas have been vigorously opposed by large segments of the Wall Street establishment.

The critics of the report, particularly the institutions (insurance

companies, mutual funds, banks, etc.), are alleging to-day that Mr. Martin has done little more than trot out the age-old line of the New York Stock Exchange establishment, and that he has shown that his prime concern was to preserve the status quo—the efficiency of which in times of stress has been found sorely wanting.

A third option is that Mr. Martin has been Machiavellian and subtle in his approach. This is that by encouraging the Wall Street establishment by not recommending either institutional membership or negotiated commission rates, he is also making it more difficult for the establishment to refuse to take up his challenge on reform of the most hallowed of Wall Street institutions, the New York Stock Exchange itself.

Both ideas have been vigorously opposed by large segments of the Wall Street establishment. The point of these reforms is to avoid the situation where non-floor traders feel the management of the Exchange is unduly influenced by floor traders, who may have minimal contact with the public.

Reform of the NYSE is something that can be tackled im-

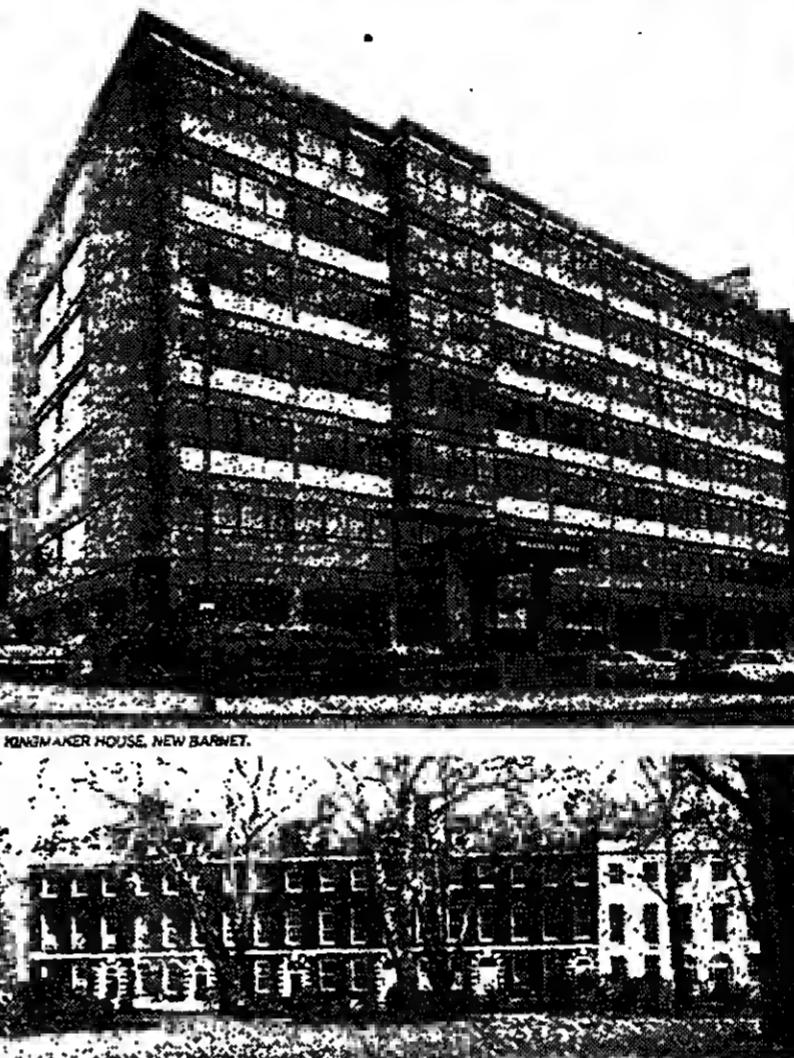
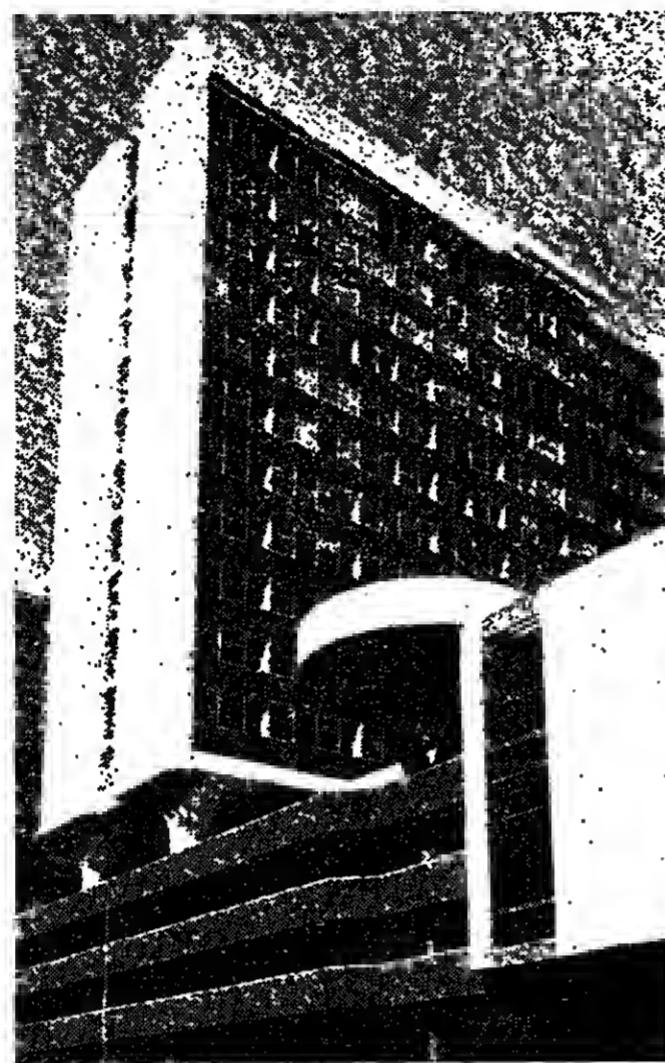
mediately—indeed the Board comprising the full-time paid chairman, 10 brokers and 10 from the outside world.

For voting purposes, the present seats on the Exchange would each be converted into ten shares. All shares would be owned by member firms, each share would entitle the owner to one vote with cumulative voting rights for the election of the 10 public members of the Board.

Ownership of just one share would be qualification enough for NYSE membership and the right to trade in listed securities. However, in order for a member to have a representative on the floor of the Exchange, he would need to hold 10 shares. The

point of these reforms is to avoid the situation where non-floor traders feel the management of the Exchange is unduly influenced by floor traders, who may have minimal contact with the public.

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Five of eight major properties in the Abbey Property Bond Fund with an aggregate value of £23,000,000.

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Naturally, if you've withdrawn money from the Fund, the amount of life cover will be correspondingly less.

**6% p.a. Tax Free**

Provided you make a single investment of not less than £1,000 you may, if you wish, withdraw up to 6% of the value of your Bond each

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The annualised growth rate achieved has in fact exceeded 6% since the Bonds were introduced.

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With Abbey Property Bonds you have no personal liability to Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax either while you hold them or when you cash them. The Company is liable to Income Tax on the rental income, at the special Life Assurance Company rate—currently 37.5%.

The Company also has the right to make deductions to cover its own Capital Gains Tax liabilities, but this is not adjusted for in the Unit price. In present circumstances, it intends to limit this deduction to two-thirds the normal rate.

### Surtax

Surtax payers are liable to surtax (or higher rate tax after 1973) when they cash in or on death, depending on their surtax situation at the time of cashing in. There are a number of provisos which enable a surtax payer to reduce, and possibly eliminate, the liability and very high surtax payers should contact Abbey Life for precise details.

### Investment Policy

The Abbey Property Bond Fund is managed by the Property Division of Hammonds Bank. It's invested in top industrial and commercial properties with really sound tenants. To name but a few—National Westminster Bank, Esso Chemicals, The Post Office, W. H. Smith, American Express, IPC and Boots.

Because the value of some types of properties were lower during 1970, some particularly attractive purchases with very good long-term growth prospects were made.

The Fund also buys sites and constructs its own buildings in conjunction with approved developers. Naturally, this is only undertaken with letting of the completed properties guaranteed in advance.

Up to 25% of the Fund can be applied in this way.

### Regular Valuations

Once a month a valuation of the Fund's properties is carried out by the Fund Managers. These valuations are then agreed by

Richard Ellis and Son, Chartered Surveyors. Unit prices are published daily in leading national newspapers.

### Low Charges

To pay for life cover and management expenses, Abbey Life charges 5%—which is included in the offer price. Plus a small rounding-off price adjustment.

After that charges total only three-eighths per cent a year.

All expenses of managing, maintaining, and valuing the properties as well as the cost of buying and selling the Fund's investments, are met by the Fund itself.

### Cashing in Your Bonds

You can normally cash in your Bonds at any time and receive the full bid value of the Units, subject only to any adjustment for Capital Gains Tax, as described earlier.

In exceptional circumstances the Company retains the right to defer payment for up

to six months pending realisation of properties.

However, the Company maintains adequate liquid resources, similar to that of building societies, so in normal circumstances there should be no delay in cashing in.

### Disclosure of Information

As a Bondholder, you'll receive our Annual Report with full details of the entire Portfolio.

This includes photographs of the properties. And full financial information to let you see exactly how your money is invested.

As a new Bondholder you'll receive a current Annual Report with your Bonds.

### How to Invest

Fill in and post off the completed application form, together with your cheque.

As soon as it's accepted, you receive your Bonds which show the number of Units you've bought in the Abbey Property Bond Fund.

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I wish to invest £\_\_\_\_\_ in Abbey Property Bonds (any amount from £100) and I enclose a cheque for this amount payable to Abbey Life Assurance Company Limited.

Surname (Mr./Mrs./Miss) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you in good physical and mental health and free from the effects of any previous illness or accident?

If not, please give details \_\_\_\_\_

Do you already hold Abbey Property Bonds or Abbey Equity Bonds or another Abbey Life Policy? \_\_\_\_\_

Tick here for 6% Withdrawal Plan\* (minimum single investment £1,000)

\*Send in your application and cheque now to get the benefit of Units allocated at the current offer price of £1.18.  
Offer closes on Tuesday August 24.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
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Commission of 1% will be paid on any Application before the commencement of a Policy. Insurance Policy, Stockholders' Account or Savings Policy.  
Commission is based on legal advice received by the Company regarding previous law and instant financial practices. No medical evidence will be required in most cases. The application and the cover letter must be signed by the applicant and the life cover may be restricted.

JULY 1971

# Property and housing

## Inimitable Brighton

BY JOE RENNISON

FOR THE CITY dweller who has a yen to live beside the seaside and still trail clouds of metropolitan glory, what better place to choose than Brighton? This Sussex resort has sufficient panache, gloss and sophistication—as well as the usual seaside delights—to reassure the committed Londoner that he has not strayed too far from the womb. The nickname of "London-by-the-Sea" is most apt even if the reasons for the name have changed.

It is a town of such wide and many contrasts that it has something for every taste. Its most obvious characteristic—at least for the casual visitor who goes straight from the railway station to the sea front—is the kitsch-quirk and what-the-better saw image typical of any of Britain's seaside resorts: cheap and brash places of entertainment and eating places: bingo on the pier and fish and chips for supper. But turn off the main streets and one is in quiet and elegant streets and squares of first-rate Regency architecture—quiet residential areas that remind one that Brighton is also a retirement town. It is also an educational centre of some importance, a sportsman's paradise, a shopper's delight and it has its fair share of commerce and industry. And yet the vulgar and elegant, the brashness and refinement go happily hand in hand.

### Survive

Brighton is a town that knows what is good for itself. It has managed to survive changes in role and fortune for many years. From cure centre to royal spa to the working man's holiday by the sea where it first gained the title "London-by-the-Sea"; that, too, has changed. The family holiday business has rapidly declined although the town still has about 700,000 visitors a year. But most of these are day trippers and Brighton has looked to other business to secure a steady income. It is on its conference and exhibition facilities that the town has concentrated in recent years and it has made a great success of it. This year it is estimated that there will be 250 conferences attracting nearly 50,000 delegates—when spent a lot of money. Industry and commerce have been given every encouragement by the



No. 7 Royal Crescent Mews

United to help broaden the basis of its prosperity.

The "London-by-the-Sea" title is being earned increasingly because of its attractions as a retirement and commuting town. There is already a high proportion of retired people in the town (20 per cent) and the number of commuters is increasing. There are now an estimated 6,000-7,000 people who make the journey daily. It is easy to see why they choose to do so. Despite the furor over the threatened withdrawal of the "Brighton Belle" the rail service is excellent. The non-stop trains take only 55 minutes to Victoria from Brighton. The rail fare (annual season ticket) is £180 second class and £270 first class.

If Brighton can be all things to all men on the social level, the same is true for what it has to offer the home-seeker, commuters, week-enders, or for retirement. Regency houses and Regency converted flats; new houses and new flats; old houses, large and small; of a wide variety of sizes and dates. Around the central shopping and entertainment core there is an area of medium quality Vie-



Royal Crescent

in selling. At the other end of the price scale inflation is best demonstrated in a converted Regency terrace maisonette which two years ago was sold for £14,000 and has just been sold again for £20,500. Bernard Thorpe and Partners say they are receiving more and more inquiries from Londoners who are interested in property which by central London standards is cheap but expensive for Brighton.

### Desirable

Bernard Thorpe and Partners are the agents for what is probably the most desirable house going at the present time. This is No. 1, Royal Crescent, a street made famous by its celebrated residents. The house, freehold, can be used as it is now as a maisonette and three other flats or as a single home with the ground floor as a staff flat. The facade, windows and balcony were all renewed a couple of years ago. There is also a walled garden with a summer house. Price £30,500.

The same agents are also offering a mews cottage behind Royal Crescent. No. 7, Royal Crescent Mews is in a quiet backwater and has two reception, kitchen, breakfast room, two bedrooms, bath and garage. It needs some conversion since there is no central heating and the bathroom is at the moment on the ground floor. Price £15,000.

The other house the same agents have for sale is No. 26, Lewes Crescent. The purchaser of this converted Regency house

has the use of 5 acres of private gardens in the square. The accommodation consists of drawing room with balcony, first bedroom, bathroom and dressing room en suite, four other bedrooms and two bathrooms, dining room, study, kitchen, patio garden and a housekeeper's flat. Price £32,000 freehold, to include carpets and curtains. In this kind of property, however, what is much more typical is the converted separate flat which goes for between £15,000 and £25,000.

One very unusual development Thorpe's are handling is the creation of a new square in the Kemp Town district. The developers have actually found a piece of land in this highly developed area which is not already given over to housing. On the site of the old Kemp Town Brewery they are developing what is to be known as Seymour Square. The property will consist of 22 town houses with four bedrooms, two baths, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms with two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge-diner and kitchen is going for £5,000 freehold; 14, West Hill Street, a cottage-style house with two bedrooms, bath, lounge, dining room and kitchen, and a small garden is £16,500.

The central area of the town near the seafront has been developed with several tower blocks of medium/high quality flats. Typical of this kind of development is Chartwell Court, Churchill Square. The square is a comprehensive development just behind the sea front including shops, a pub, flats and offices. There are several different styles of flats

available within the block and of those remaining there are one, two- and three-bedroom flats with kitchen, living room and one or two bathrooms, and some have a balcony. Prices range from £7,160 to £14,525, depending on size and amenity. Those on the upper floor will have superb views over the sea, the town and the Downs. Agents are Hattrell and Draper of Brighton and Jones Lang Wootton.

### Amenities

Jenner and Dell have a similar flat on offer in Ashley Court, Grand Avenue, Hove. On the tenth floor, it has a large lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and garage facilities below. Amenities include double glazing, central heating, internal phone and catering services.

Price for a 994-year lease, £8,950. The same agents have two properties in the lower market typical of the cheaper housing which is hard to come by: 35, Clifton Street, a terrace cottage with two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge-diner and kitchen is £10,000. The first eight have been completed at a price of £15,500, of which two remain unsold. The next 14 will be ready next spring and will cost around £20,000.

The central area of the town near the seafront has been developed with several tower blocks of medium/high quality flats. Typical of this kind of development is Chartwell Court, Churchill Square. The square is a comprehensive development just behind the sea front including shops, a pub, flats and offices. There are several different styles of flats

available within the block and of those remaining there are one, two- and three-bedroom flats with kitchen, living room and one or two bathrooms, and some have a balcony. Prices range from £7,160 to £14,525, depending on size and amenity. Those on the upper floor will have superb views over the sea, the town and the Downs. Agents are Hattrell and Draper of Brighton and Jones Lang Wootton.

The senior partner of Freeman Fox and Partners, Sir Ralph Freeman, said to-night it seemed to him that the authority had decided that somebody's head had to roll. He was not shocked by the decision—"Indeed I take

design of the bridge caused contributed to the collapse. The chairman of the authority is reported to have said that the Royal Commission's findings were exaggerated. With us agree, feel that none of our firm's well founded previous allegations made again my firm are well founded. Whereas before I was pleased to say little, having now seen the report in more detail I cannot all conscience remain reticent.

we failed in any way it was a failure of our high reputation the responsibilities and obligations of several other parties involved in Westgate Crossing transferred to a shoulder. Because the big reputation it seems we are being placed in a situation when by we are blamed for the incompetence of others."

He was not prepared to say just whom he meant by "other

designers" as they come."

The senior partner of Freeman Fox and Partners, Sir Ralph Freeman, said to-night it seemed to him that the authority had decided that somebody's head had to roll. He was not shocked by the decision—"Indeed I take

"We'll be cleared"

He reaffirmed "without reservation" that the independent investigations presently being carried out would confirm the collapse was not due to deficiency in design. "I am certain that the prime cause of the collapse was the removal the bolts and that the damage played no part in the failure."

Sir Ralph could not say if an action would be taken by his

against the Lower Yarra Crossing Authority. It was feasible the bridge could be finished without his firm but termination would only cause delay and greater cost to the Authority. He could say what this incident would do to the reputation of his firm.

He categorically denied that the

## Block system of display at Scottish Motor Show

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

GLASGOW, August 4

A BLOCK system of car display similar to that at London's Earls Court will be mounted at the Scottish Motor Show in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, from November 20 to 26.

The big British manufacturers' products will be in "department" and Continental and other foreign cars will be seen in single blocks. The new arrangement has been necessary as the floor display will be 20 per cent less than the 1969 exhibition.

The old circus area is at present being rebuilt as a multi-purpose hall and club at a cost of £450,000.

This dealers' show has attracted 130 companies—five were unsuccessful in the ballot for space. Although the members of the British Rubber Manufacturers' Association Tyre division had decided not to take space, the 130 exhibitors will be represented and in addition to commercial vehicles there will be a wide selection of accessories. Sports cars will make a special display.

The promoters are hoping for an attendance of around 150,000—30,000 more than at the peak figure of 122,000 in 1969.

## Builders' new attack on fixed price tendering

A CALL for an end to the "iniquitous system of fixed price tendering" in the building industry is made in a leading article in the Master Builders' Journal.

"In no other industry at this time is the Government asking for such long term risks to be undertaken as they are asking of the building industry, by insistence on fixed price contracts," it says.

"Costs of materials are escalating monthly, yet no consideration is being given to the builder. No attempt has been made to bring pressure to bear on manufacturers, producers or nationalised

industries to hold prices for a period of time."

The writer adds that an even more significant factor is now being alleged—that Government departments may be guilty of bending the rules regarding fixed price tendering.

"Reports reaching us indicate that inquiries received by contractors have the contract period set at 24 months, within the two year period the making it fixed price tender. But in the opinion of those concerned, the contract period should properly be 24 months, bringing the contract into the variable price method of tender."

## Move to speed air fare talks

BY RAY DAPTER

AIRLINE negotiators at the International Air Transport Association air fares conference in Montreal yesterday concentrated on the making of a firm package for transatlantic flights between Europe and North America in an attempt to accelerate an agreement.

If they are successful, it seems they would be prepared to meet for "several more days" in an attempt to tie up the loose ends if they cannot reach a general agreement. It seems likely that will call off this present session of talks and possibly come together at a later date.

While it is basically a North Atlantic fares session, the issues go much wider, taking into consideration inter-connecting services in Europe and North America.

The airlines were hoping that by concentrating on the core of the problem—the North Atlantic itself—it would be easier to reach an agreement. With such an agreement behind them it should prove an easier matter for them to fix a fares structure for auxiliary routes.

### Difficult

While it had been hoped that a complete new fares structure—including cheap promotional fares and first class and economy fares at about the present levels—could be worked out by last night, it was, however, evident yesterday that this would be extremely difficult to achieve.

The airline negotiators, repre-

senting 24 North Atlantic operators and about another 33 other carriers, were prepared to continue sitting this weekend in an attempt to come to some compromise settlement.

If they are successful, it seems they would be prepared to meet for "several more days" in an attempt to tie up the loose ends if they cannot reach a general agreement. It seems likely that will call off this present session of talks and possibly come together at a later date.

Mr. Eric Hanks, managing director of Clarkair International, said in London yesterday that it was partly the policy of IATA of dictating high air fares in the past and governments in supporting this policy, which were to blame for the "turmoil" over air fares.

**Ticket 'touts'**

"Ticket touts"—selling cut-rate air tickets—however much depressed—were in business only because the system of international air fares so badly needed reviewing, he said.

He said: "It is high time that governments considered taking into account the interests of the public at large and encouraged IATA to allow members to introduce more realistic fares."

Clarkair, jointly owned by Shipping Industrial Holdings and the Ocean Steam Ship Group, is a world-wide brokerage concern.

## Economic Diary

PROVISIONAL U.K. trade figures for July and the Treasury's economic assessment will be published on Thursday.

Other events next week include:

MONDAY—Retail trade and hire purchase figures for June.

TUESDAY—National Economic Development Office working party report on process plant.

Wednesday Trust publication on the European Economic Community and the Migration of Workers.

WEDNESDAY—National Trading Board annual report on petroleum. Index of Industrial Production figures for June.

THURSDAY—National Trading Board annual report on electricity. NEDO report on the training and development of field managers in engineering construction.

FRIDAY—British Steel Corporation production statistics for July. Building Societies' receipts and loans for July.

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Agents.

# Major companies support CBI's price curb call

BY HAROLD BOLTER, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

OVERWHELMING support has been received among 200 of the U.K.'s major companies for the Confederation of British Industry's initiative on prices restraint, designed to limit increases to no more than 5 per cent over the next 12 months.

Sir John Partridge, the CBI's President, told me last night: "I am extremely well satisfied with the response we have had to date. The CBI will give a full report early next week on the number of companies which have signed the prices undertaking."

The 200 were originally given until yesterday to sign the CBI pledge, but the closing date was later extended because of the incidence of annual industrial holidays and the difficulty of arranging Board meetings.

No more than two of the larger British companies have so far refused to commit themselves to holding prices between now and the end of July next year and over 100 smaller concerns have volunteered this written promise, although they were not asked to do so.

## Guarantee

All the major car manufacturers have made the commitment—with an implied guarantee that they will put pressure on their suppliers to follow suit—as well as such important undertakings as Guest Keen and Nettlefolds, Hoover, and Shell-Mex and B.P.

Metal Box, which has considerable influence in the packaging field, yesterday announced its support for the CBI policy and there have been indications that the glass-container industry intends to hold price increases to a maximum of 5 per cent, too.

The company supports the CBI initiative in the belief that unless some answer is found to the continuing inflationary situation of price rises and leap-frogging wage demands, no one becomes better off." Metal Box said.

Mr. Alex W. Page, Metal Box's chairman, pointed out that the Government had responded well to the CBI initiative with the special grants taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to relate the economy.

## Reduction

This can only work given a reduction in the rate of inflation and it is in all our interests to ensure that by adhering to this undertaking we help to give consistent and profitable growth to the company," he said in a message to employees.

Kotex has also signed the CBI undertaking.

Among the other companies announcing that they had signed the CBI's commitment yesterday were Watney Mann, RHM, one of the U.K.'s biggest food manufacturing groups, Plessey, the plastics controls and housewares group, and Cabot Carbon, which has its headquarters at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

## £1.25M. ORDERS FOR NCR

National Cash Register's electronic data processing division has received orders worth in excess of £1.25m. for last month.

Mr. M. Myers, NCR sales director, said: "These July orders are very encouraging considering the state of the market in general. We are optimistic about the coming months as well."

Computer delays probably cost banks £16m.

Financial Times Reporter

DELAYS in getting the Burroughs computer systems into operation have probably cost Barclays and the Midland Bank at least £16m., according to the August issue of The Banker.

On present schedules the computer systems will be completed three years later than originally planned and the Midland is likely to experience the greater delay, The Banker says.

Midland is using the Burroughs system entirely but Barclays has decided to aim to use the computers for only about one-third of its accounts.

The Banker says that Barclays, who last month took delivery of one Burroughs 6700 computer and confirmed an order for two more, has now given up any immediate plans to install a "real-time" system for its branch accountants.

Barclays would be updating customers' accounts overnight like the other banks instead of each time a new transaction occurred, The Banker explains.

## Further seven miles of M40 to cost £5.39m.

WORK is to start soon on a further seven miles of the M40 Motorway by-passing Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire. The American Fazlough Consortium is to undertake the construction which is expected to take two years and cost £5.39m. This section of motorway will run from Beaconsfield to Denham and will have three-lane dual carriageways. A flyover and enlarged roundabout will be built at Denham where the motorway will be linked to Western Avenue as a through route.

When this section is finished there will be 20 miles of continuous motorway and 44 miles out of 58 miles on the A40/M40 London to Oxford road will be dual carriageway.

Presented its work on the factory

# Factory-fresh protein, with a taste of mushroom

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

LORD RANK, president of Ranks Hovis McDougall, is eager to build the world's first big plant to manufacture edible protein, at a cost estimated at £3m. Slightly less eager to rush into the venture, he admits, is his research director, Professor Arnold Spicer, a pharmacologist whose process the plant would use.

More cautious still is Spicer's assistant, Dr. Gerald Solomons, the microbiologist who designed and built the pilot protein plant at High Wycombe, now coming on stream.

A few days ago the Queen Mother opened this experimental factory in which Ranks' Hovis McDougall and the National Research Development Corporation have jointly invested £1m. She tasted liver pâté made in Ranks' experimental bakery nearby and is reported to have spoken well of its flavour. The pâté and other foods ("meat," "poultry," etc.) offered to guests that day contained a high proportion of protein made by a method pioneered by Ranks' research group.

The three executives are convinced the company is on to a winner with its single-cell protein, a method of growing teeming microorganisms on a bubbling "broth" in an oxygen plant. The harvest, they say, is richer in protein than the best steak. Their faith is confirmed by the World Health Organization, which this summer declared their process the only source of factory-made protein fit for human consumption.

This summer RHM pulled ahead in a race with, in Britain alone, engages such giants as British Petroleum, Shell and ICI. In Moscow in June, at a meeting of WHO's Protein Advisory Committee, the world

presented its work on the factory

activity in novel sources of product.

Despite the immense

of temperature, alkalinity,

nutrient flow, agitation, and so

on, and with standards of

sterility that would do credit to

the best operating theatre.

From the vat flows a "porridge"

containing all the right amino

acids for human wellbeing, in

proportions that better the best

beef. It dries to a fibrous,

meat-like structure with a dis-

tinctive texture and a flavor

faintly reminiscent of mush-

rooms.

It is what happens next that

seems to perturb many people,

for Prof. Spicer firmly believes

that it must be turned into

facilities of familiar foods.

Since the basic texture is

already there—an important

asset—the protein concentrate

can easily be processed with the

help of a little binding substance

into chunks of "meat" and

"poultry," or protein-rich spaghetti or crispbread.

The "meats" have a tendency,

when chewed, to crumble more

easily than prime cuts. But as

Spicer points out, even in

Britain's comparatively affluent

society about 40 per cent cannot

afford high-quality protein more

than two days a week. In the

U.S., nutritionists claim that 20

per cent of the population is

below the official "subsistence

level."

What seems to have inspired

some of the mischievous remarks

about "plastic food" is confu-

sion between microbial protein

and another new source of protein

from the same stable. Along-

side the microbial protein plan

at High Wycombe is another

pilot plant turning a home-grown

into protein powder. Vegeta-

ble protein, Prof. Spicer says,

they must be sure that their

ideas for continuous control

including on-line analysis of the

atmosphere in which the microbe

is reared, work as well as the

hope. Above all they must be

sure their microbe cannot

mutate and spawn toxic spores.

But around the end of 1971,

RHM plans to start building

its first big protein plant, pro-

ducing around 15,000 tons a year

of high-quality protein to a num-

ber of companies' food-processing

units. One thing they are sur-

of is that the first plant must

be in Britain. "to show develop-

ing countries it's good enough

for us."



Electron micrograph of Roux single-cell protein.

warm broth of the starch is inoculated with a micro-fungus under closely defined conditions of temperature, alkalinity, nutrient flow, agitation, and so on, and with standards of sterility that would do credit to the best operating theatre. From the vat flows a "porridge" containing all the right amino acids for human wellbeing, in proportions that better the best quality beef. It dries to a fibrous, meat-like structure with a distinctive texture and a flavor faintly reminiscent of mushroom.

Within a few weeks bean protein from Ranks' pilot plant, spun by Courtaulds, will be on sale in Britain as meat and fish analogues. RHM will sell it as Cerebos NVP (natural vegetable protein).

Meanwhile, Prof. Spicer's single-cell protein is still a year or two from the market-place. The bigger fermenters, in a plant designed to make no more than two or three tons of protein a week, have still not been commissioned. Not until well into next year will they have the design data for a big plant capable of several hundred tons of protein a week.

They must be sure that their ideas for continuous control including on-line analysis of the atmosphere in which the microbe is reared, work as well as the hope. Above all they must be sure their microbe cannot mutate and spawn toxic spores.

But what seems to have inspired some of the mischievous remarks about "plastic food" is confusion between microbial protein and another new source of protein from the same stable. Alongside the microbial protein plan at High Wycombe is another pilot plant turning a home-grown

into protein powder. Vegetable protein, Prof. Spicer says,

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Saturday August 7 1971

## Another quiet revolution

IT IS STILL not generally realised that when the present "guidance" over bank lending comes to an end on September 15 it will not be replaced by anything of a like nature. There will be no official ceiling on bank overdrafts and the Bank of England will attempt to control monetary conditions by means of market operations and special deposits. Moreover, the present cartel which fixes both deposit and overdraft rates will come to an end; and individual banks will be free to compete in both the lending and deposit side.

The exact pattern of events is difficult to calculate in advance, and there is a clear risk of a large expansion in credit during the inaugural period of the new scheme. The risk is unfortunately enhanced by the extreme reluctance of the authorities to commit themselves to any money supply target in advance and the lingering belief that provided there is no obvious economic "overheating," and the balance of payments remains strong, the behaviour of the money supply does not really matter. This is an unduly short term approach; for the time to worry about "overheating" is before it has occurred.

## Long-term danger

The most serious long term danger arises from the large swing into deficit of the public sector. The official borrowing requirement in both this financial year and the next one is likely to exceed £1,000m. For the time being there may be no difficulty in financing it to a large extent by the sale of long term public sector securities. But at a later stage of the cycle the company sector is likely to become net borrowers of funds to finance investment, and the personal savings ratio is likely to fall. All this would put great pressure on the gilt-edged market; and whether the authorities would really be prepared to see the very large increase in interest rates that might be necessary to finance the public sector without inflating the money supply remains to be seen. Market experts are extremely sceptical. Indeed common sense would suggest that whatever the rights and wrongs of a £1,000m. public sector deficit as an anti-inflationary measure, the Government's accounts should move near to balance as the economy returns to a higher level of employment.

Unfortunately, there is no sign that the Government has thought ahead to the problems of the later stages of economic recovery, which is when all previous expansionist experiments have come to a sticky end. Similar considerations apply to the possibility of renewed quantitative guidance. No such guidance is at present expected in the reference in the Consultative Document simply because the political fact at which credit is short. Ministers cannot be prevented from forcing the banks to give priority to, say, exports over consumption. In fact the clearing banks have little to complain about as far as their general liquidity situation is concerned. The real evident is the other way round, and their present reserve ratio is

## Letters to the Editor

## Rowing sorrows

Sir.—I question the logic of Mr. M. G. (after 1 August 31) in his observations on the protracted take-over battle for Truman Shrubsole. It is motivated by the fact that C. & G. and Metropolitan Life is offered to gain a share in the brewing industry, after bids for other breweries have been rejected. This is the only way to

those who should feel compelled to become shareholders of the company, which ultimately wins. However, better that their bid has paid such a vastly increased price. Indeed they will have to driven to sell their shares to the new owners to a very sensible price.

Unfortunately, there is no sign that the Government has thought ahead to the problems of the later stages of economic recovery, which is when all previous expansionist experiments have come to a sticky end.

## Presenting data

Sir.—How much I agree with Mr. Williams (July 21) that it is the job of the accountant to inform and that he must give the presentation of his data accordingly—for the layman.

The people that matter in a company are, at best, generalists in the art of finance and specialists in the technical side particularly. And yet it is their decisions that make or break the company—financially.

It is not therefore sufficient merely to present information lucidly, on one side of a sheet of paper, that will be "understood." The accountant's data must go much further. He must tell the non-financial side of

perhaps 5-6 per cent above the prescribed 12% per cent level. Other banks, taken together, are not far below this ratio—although some individual banks clearly are. To avoid a potential credit explosion the authorities will probably have to "request" the clearing banks to take up considerable quantities of some specially issued funding stock.

The exact pattern of events is difficult to calculate in advance, and there is a clear risk of a large expansion in credit during the inaugural period of the new scheme. The risk is unfortunately enhanced by the extreme reluctance of the authorities to commit themselves to any money supply target in advance and the lingering belief that provided there is no obvious economic "overheating," and the balance of payments remains strong, the behaviour of the money supply does not really matter. This is an unduly short term approach; for the time to worry about "overheating" is before it has occurred.

But Watney Mann has also benefited through higher sales. After Derby County won the Cup last year a local multiple retailer with 32 shops chose Watneys for its beer supplies for the first time. A Sunday tournament among amateur football teams has also become much more popular, and here Watney links its local sponsorships to orders for its products from the clubs involved. Furthermore, market research suggests a more favourable attitude to the company among consumers.

## Ford prizes withdrawn

Where Watney Mann has won, though, Ford has suffered. It also entered football sponsorship last season with £100,000 in prizes for the best-behaved teams in the Fonthill League. It is not repeating the competition. For one thing economic conditions, following the industrial disputes in the motor trade, made it too expensive. Secondly, it did not do the company's image among workers much good in a period of labour unrest to be seen lavishing vast sums of money in sponsorship. And thirdly, it is generally agreed that the competition was not particularly well thought out. The same club, Oldham, tended to win awards repeatedly, and the cash went towards ground improvements rather than to the actual players.

There is another company involved in supporting soccer—Taco. It may not have made such an impact as Watney, but it is doing a useful job in making a fairly new brand name better known and associating it with British sport instead of an American sport. Together these three examples provide useful case histories for any company thinking about sponsoring a sport—and many

of the circuit to win cheap advertising.

The tobacco companies have, in fact, been the driving force behind sports sponsorship in the UK. Collectively, they spend well over £1m. a year. Carreras has become the major sponsor of tennis, along with Wills. John Player sponsors cricket. Obviously to associate tobacco with healthy open-air activities is a good idea psychologically, and the fairy godmother pose could blunt some of the criticism of cigarette companies. "We do a lot of good by stealth," said one director, referring to the hundreds of local sports activities helped

financially by his company. There does indeed seem to be a greater emphasis on the community aspect of sponsorship. Brooke Bond Oxo is diversifying into the meat business in the West Country, so it sponsors a steeplechase at Taunton which is restricted to local farmers—its potential suppliers. The Midland Bank moved into sponsorship a couple of years ago and now dominates horse trials. The reasoning was that the Midland had always been strong in rural areas and since it was the sons and daughters of its prosperous agricultural customers who would gain from the small amounts of prize money contributed there would be a direct advantage. Barclays has more recently followed its competitor into supporting horse trials. The reasoning seems more obscure.

Horses have, of course, always been the greatest beneficiaries of company cash. Whitbread was the first to sponsor horse racing when it put up money for the 1957 Whitbread Gold Cup. It now backs three other races, a total expenditure of £25,000 a year. "It's a very good way of

keeping our name before the public," says the company. The brewers, bookmakers, and the tobacco companies have traditionally been the biggest sponsors of racing, and total sponsorship last year amounted to over £377,000 out of a total prize money of almost £5m.

This year, however, horse racing is becoming even more dependent on commercial backers. Their total contribution has jumped by over £100,000, to almost £480,000, and there will be an even sharper rise next year, when De Beers Consolidated Mines, the international diamond group, enters the field with £30,000 worth of support for Ascot's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes. This will make it the richest race in the country.

Some leading directors of De Beers have a well-known personal interest in racing—hence the sponsorship. The money is guaranteed for three years and the marketing explanation is that Ascot, diamonds, and high fashion make a logical pattern. This could prove dubious logic. Even so, De Beers' stake is considerably less than that of Wills, which this year is putting up prize money of over £51,000 for 29 races. Part of the attraction is the television coverage given to horse racing; and part the attraction of a day at the races for customers and potential customers.

When the sponsors are bookmakers the association is even more understandable. This afternoon, for example, the Martini International Fencing—there is no obvious link between the sponsorship and the company. Green Shield does a useful job helping grass-roots tennis, but what is the connection between the two? And too much reliance on getting the company name on television via banners is shortsighted, since advertising a name out of context is almost useless.

**Danger of a rebound**  
Sponsoring should probably be left to companies that have committed marketing budgets in other directions and have some spare cash, like Pepsi Cola and its sponsorship of an international tennis championship; or where the financial contribution is relatively small but the choice of sport offers a good chance of success, like Fords—swimming pool manufacturers which have done well this year or where there is a direct link between the product and the sport, as in the Dunlop Masters golf tournament. Companies should resist joining a bandwagon. It can rebound against them in the short run and against the sport itself in the longer term.

## SPONSORED SPORT

## The winners and the losers

BY ANTONY THORNCROFT



## Coming out of golf

Not surprisingly in the current economic situation when profits are under pressure companies have been taking a more critical look at their marketing budgets generally and sponsorship in particular. Last year Alcan stopped sponsoring its international golf tournament. The costs were rising to over £250,000 a year while receipts were lower than expected. In addition it was proving difficult to ensure television coverage for the event. John Player, too, sponsored the Nottingham Classic, with over £50,000 in prize money last autumn, but does not intend to repeat the fixture—the golf circuit is so tight that you just cannot rely on getting the top players. As a result, many companies are withdrawing from golf, where only four events have managed to survive for a decade—the Dakar, the Dupont Masters, the Martini and the Penfold.

There has been a general fall-out, too, in another sport which has traditionally attracted sponsors—motor racing. Petrol companies and the motor accessories trade have cut back, and British Leyland has withdrawn from rallying. However, consumer goods companies have effectively plugged the gaps. For example, Brooke Bond-Oxo was approached last year by Rob Walker and asked to sponsor a car driven by Graham Hill. It agreed to an eight-month trial run. This proved successful and now the company is backing another Walker car, driven by John Surtees, for three years. In the same way Yardley and Wills Gold Leaf are involved in backing Formula One cars.

All the companies use motor racing events to entertain customers, to impress spectators, and to plaster their brand names on their cars and around the circuit to win cheap advertising.

tising on television. But the circuit is so tight that you just cannot rely on getting the top players. As a result, many companies are withdrawing from golf, where only four events have managed to survive for a decade—the Dakar, the Dupont Masters, the Martini and the Penfold.

There does indeed seem to be a greater emphasis on the community aspect of sponsorship. Brooke Bond Oxo is diversifying into the meat business in the West Country, so it sponsors a steeplechase at Taunton which is restricted to local farmers—its potential suppliers. The Midland Bank moved into sponsorship a couple of years ago and now dominates horse trials. The reasoning was that the Midland had always been strong in rural areas and since it was the sons and daughters of its prosperous agricultural customers who would gain from the small amounts of prize money contributed there would be a direct advantage. Barclays has more recently followed its competitor into supporting horse racing. The reasoning seems more obscure.

Many more companies will invest in sponsored sport in the future, egged on by the numerous consultants who are opening up to provide advice about particular sports and offering to put deals together. Last month, for example, an outfit called Scope appeared, designed to ease sponsorship of motor racing. It offers companies a wide range of choices—one swimming pool manufacturer invests just £750; Wiggins Teape spent £8,000 last year supporting a car in the British Saloon Car Championships. But Scope offers sponsorship deals worth ten times this amount. There are similar consultants for golf and other sports and as the number of worthwhile, as yet unsponsored, sports declines

## Banks and horse trials

The tobacco companies have, in fact, been the driving force behind sports sponsorship in the UK. Collectively, they spend well over £1m. a year. Carreras has become the major sponsor of tennis, along with Wills. John Player sponsors cricket. Obviously to associate tobacco with healthy open-air activities is a good idea psychologically, and the fairy godmother pose could blunt some of the criticism of cigarette companies. "We do a lot of good by stealth," said one director, referring to the hundreds of local sports activities helped

financially by his company. There does indeed seem to be a greater emphasis on the community aspect of sponsorship. Brooke Bond Oxo is diversifying into the meat business in the West Country, so it sponsors a steeplechase at Taunton which is restricted to local farmers—its potential suppliers. The Midland Bank moved into sponsorship a couple of years ago and now dominates horse trials. The reasoning was that the Midland had always been strong in rural areas and since it was the sons and daughters of its prosperous agricultural customers who would gain from the small amounts of prize money contributed there would be a direct advantage. Barclays has more recently followed its competitor into supporting horse racing. The reasoning seems more obscure.

Horses have, of course, always been the greatest beneficiaries of company cash. Whitbread was the first to sponsor horse racing when it put up money for the 1957 Whitbread Gold Cup. It now backs three other races, a total expenditure of £25,000 a year. "It's a very good way of

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## LMS AND FINANCE

## The cinema looks to the City

Y WERE two men with much the same message. William Gossett, the unusual new head of that emotive Hollywood film Twentieth Century Fox, Mr. Nicholas Ridley, the but seemingly uncomfortable Minister responsible for the film industry. Gossett in London recently after corporate fracas which had the ebullient Darryl F. Zanuck from the top seat at Fox. The film industry, he argued, been unrealistic in the past. In future it would play its less according to normal mercantile rules. And Mr. Ridley, in his speech to the National Finance Corporation, to the accompaniment of howls of derision from within the film industry, he said: "The ultimate test will have to make of the films' public's to see."

## In the move

A film industry, where the changes as rapidly as in old-time Westerns, is on the move again. The epic died a time ago, to be replaced by the success of *Easy Rider*. Since then the commercial professionals have found feet in the film business. The impact will be felt over next couple of years. The fear that is being raised by the film industry on both sides of the Atlantic is the bankers' assessment of prospects will in fact be the adventure in the business. Already only one in five films can be called commercial successes and the efforts to

ensure a relatively safe return on an investment would, it might be assumed, tend to err on the "safe" side. Mr. Gossett indeed referred to the possibility of computing the formula for a commercially viable film. Among the current money spinners in London's West End are *The Devils*, *Le Mous*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, *Ryan's Daughter*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday* and *Gimme Shelter*. A couple of them, *The Devils* with cruelty and *Sunday Bloody Sunday* with homosexuality, might push the censorship boundaries a little further, but by and large they have either star, story or production assets which would have marked them as possible winners in the early stages of their conception. The other problem is that what is a success to-day might be a flop 18 months hence. The producer's nightmare is in trying to discover to-day what is to be the box-office hit of Christmas, 1972.

The list of companies that have tried their hand at "experimentation" in the past and withdrawn hurt is long. Rank in the U.K. now only occasionally strays from the safety of Hammer horror pictures and films of the "Carry On" ilk. EMI, after its experience of film production under the Bryan Forbes regime, has also put a great many eggs into the Hammer basket. It has switched heavily to co-productions with MGM and soft-pedalled on its one-time more ambitious intentions, while Morgan Greneff found that money was not returning fast enough. Current pace-setters in the film-making business include Tigon, Scotia Barber and Romulus.

The link between the newer companies, the old hands, and the American giants with their

new controllers, is a passion for cost-effectiveness. Over the years Sir Jimmy Carreras at the extraordinarily successful Hammer group has succeeded in reducing the bill for some of his pictures. The number of people who these days even within the U.S. will spend more than \$1m. on a picture is very small indeed, and the number in the U.K. who

the NFFC will be publishing its prospectus. At the moment the industry seems to give it a 50-50 chance of attracting the necessary financial support.

There is little doubt that a film investment can often be a good one. There are few successes to match film successes. *Love Story* has probably grossed \$60m. so far. The Go-

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

will part with more than £300,000 is equally small.

The task of the National Film Finance Corporation in the past was to involve itself in "end money" for projects which it thought would be profitable. "End money" is the last slice of finance for film. It is the last to be repaid and commands the highest interest.

Even with small budget pictures the man who is prepared to put up the "end money" is important for it is often his availability which gets the film made at all.

Seeing that the Government was going to remove the NFFC from the State umbrella the Corporation has been trying to change the "end money" system and prepare itself for life in the world of private finance. Up till now the general practice has been for basic costs to be covered first, and then for the backers to be paid. Under a new scheme every pound spent at the box office will contain something for those who put up the cash.

The Government has told the NFFC that it can go forth as a commercial concern with £1 of State support for every £3 it raises from the City or any other private source. Some time during the next few days

Between, EMI's prize-winning film at Cannes, has taken more than \$26,000 in its first week at a 360-seat cinema in New York. In London, *The Devils* has taken £25,000 in two weeks at one cinema alone.

On the other hand, there are few flops like film failures. Twentieth Century Fox lost £50m. in two years, thanks to films like *Star* and *Dr. Doolittle* and it will be a long time before anyone takes risks like that again.

## The risks

If no-one is prepared to put money into the new NFFC, where the returns are more likely and the risks reduced, there will be no further Government support for British film-making, other than for "cultural" reasons or by the quota system and ready money (through which a share of box office takings on all films goes back to British film-makers). The alarm of many in the film business over the loss of the State NFFC is not so much because of the sums involved—£50m. in 25 years—but because another separate source of cash has been removed.

Unfortunately all this is happening against a background of continued decline in the amount of cinema-going in Britain, although there are signs of a slight revival in the U.K. Last year there were some 193m. cinema admissions in the U.K. compared with 215m. in 1969. The 10 per cent. fall off in admissions did not lead to a similar drop in revenue simply because cinemas increased their prices. The industry generated total box office receipts of £59m. But the cash was spread a little less thinly. Britain started the year with 1,581 cinemas and ended it with 1,529.

The argument currently raging in the film business is whether or not the rising prices are responsible for the declining audiences. In the past ten years cinema admission prices have risen twice as fast as the cost of living. Recently EMI achieved a remarkable piece of industrial timing by announcing an average 18 per cent. (8p) rise in the price of its seats on the day Selective Employment Tax was reduced. So far the other groups have not followed suit, although Rank has been experimenting with one or two

goers of an appreciable frequency.

Oddly enough, just as the cinema must be alarmed at the way in which it loses these young people to the telly, so the television contractors are a little concerned at the way in which youth is still happier in the back row than the back room. The development of second set viewing and the increasing acceptance of colour may well change that situation. A colour TV set can be rented for a week for less than the price of two good London cinema seats for two hours.

## 'Twin' cinemas

The capital required for re-organising the exhibiting side of the British film business to cope with new marketing situations is, of course, considerable. But the majors have been progressively adapting cinemas. The "twin" with two smaller cinemas made out of one of the old picture palaces is now standard practice. Triples, like the EMI projects in both Scotland and Essex, are also being introduced.

The idea of the multi-roomed cinema is that it gives the exhibitor more flexibility. Although he can be showing at least one new film each week he might be running the same picture for several weeks in one of his units. It is this formula—the small cinema running films for as long as the audience wants them—which seems to have stimulated attendance in the U.S. at the same time the big circuits have gone easily. Whether the disasters of recent years, when the philosophies of the good years were being applied in the economic and competitive situations of today, will cloud the thinking of potential new investors remains



Mr. Nicholas Ridley has been accused of stalling the film industry in the back by laying off the National Film Finance Corporation as a State activity. Producers from now on, he argued, would have to prove profitability. This shot is from *Twin's Evil*, a recently completed Rank/Hammer film.

cinema manager profit-responsible and giving him a free hand with bookings.

So the changes that are going on in both film production and film exhibiting are aimed at introducing some financial sanity into an area where once the money came a little too easily. Whether the disasters of recent years, when the philosophies of the good years were being applied in the economic and competitive situations of today, will cloud the thinking of potential new investors remains

to be seen. With more than half the British film-making labour force out of film work, and with U.K. studios now starved of the large scale American cash that used to keep them busy, the industry hardly needs encouragement.

Mr. Nicholas Ridley strongly denied recently that he had "stabbed" the industry in the back. The success of the consortium depends on the cinema making better terms and making the industry profitable to the investor.

## Labour News

## Dock employers will not raise pay offer

ROY ROGERS, LABOUR STAFF

OVERS of London's 4,000 idle dockers yesterday told negotiators that they were to improve on their offer for senior increases in basic and bonus payments.

They also rejected the unions' for a five-hour reduction in working week and advised that their claims for a week's annual holiday, sick pay, sick pay pensions were matters for later negotiation.

rent basic rates are £27.50, with, bonus, average rates are over £50 a week, 1 per cent. offer, made in a "substantial" claim, is to be worth about £3.50.

Unions are to resume negotiations, not only on the size of settlement but also on the claim which it should be.

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# COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

## Bolton Textiles paying 12½% more

BECAUSE OF buoyant trading conditions and confidence in the future within all sections of The Bolton Textile Mill Company, with the exception of disposables, the directors state they feel justified in recommending an increased dividend of 35 per cent, against 22½ per cent, for the year 1971.

The disposables section incurred a substantial loss resulting in a reduction in trading profit to £602,500 from £850,903. The loss is now being arrested, the directors state.

Pre-tax profit came out at £542,000 (£590,493) after a first half increase from £203,339 to £242,430.

Group trading profit... £602,500 (£590,493). Loan Stock interest... £10,500 (£10,500). Profit before tax... £532,000 (£580,903). Total profit... £217,000 (£25,158). Minority losses... £25,158. After-tax profit... £191,842 (£44,996). \* Profits.

Mr. S. M. Van Gelder is chairman of the company which has interests in textiles and women's clothing.

### • comment

At pre-tax level, Bolton Textile's traditional side has not been strong enough to carry the loss-making disposables. The first half so far second-half profits are 20 per cent. lower, pulling the year's performance down by 9 per cent.

The sale of half of Goujons Paper Tools last year to Rockwell and Colman seems to have been well timed. The £14,000 turnover has risen to £20,000 in disposables, mostly a rise from £15,000 to £20,000 in the rest of the group.

Group pre-tax profit contracted to £891,375, meaning an indication of not less than the £838,640 for 1970. At halfway it was up from £242,000 to £255,000.

The net tax profit was £217,020 (£185,568) and the profit attributable to the company £220,417 (£237,683). The div. paid £11,111 (£11,126).

### • comment

Cohen's forecast of roughly unchanged profits for 1970 implied a second half setback in the region of 13 per cent. Against that, 50 per cent drop pre-tax July to December comes as a shock, and one that looks the shares down 15p to 20p yesterday. The trouble has been largely limited to South Africa with costs having risen 20 per cent. In South Africa, Cohen has been dogged by management problems which led to inadequate cover against the sharp decline over the year in the price of copper, and a lack of cost control in a period of sizeable physical expansion.

This year group trading at home is still mixed: in South Africa there has been some second quarter recovery (following a general re-think); and Australia has seen further growth. But then a p/c of 9.8 takes care of this background.

## Rise for Firth Cleveland

SPEAKING at the annual meeting of Firth Cleveland, chairman Mr. C. W. Hayward said he was confident of an overall increase in the group's results in 1971.

He reminded members that in the first few months of the year many industrial activities had been adversely affected by a general downturn in trading conditions.

While this situation continued during the whole of the first half of this year, he stated, there had since been signs of increased activity in industry and the order intake had improved.

Export trade continued to expand and was running at a higher level. Net divisional profits further improved and initial reactions to the easing of credit restrictions had been to accelerate the growth of business in the division.

Meeting Page 3

## Mersey Docks and Harbour

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company (formerly Mersey Docks and Harbour Board) has circulated security holders with details of the structure of the company following the passing of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Act.

The Mersey chairman, Mr. John Cuckney, points out that the Bill was amended in a number of respects during its passage through Parliament, and the most important change is that some debenture holders may qualify for partial redemption of their bonds, which has already matured, or will mature during the moratorium period.

The main qualification for such redemption is that the applicant should have qualified in the preceding tax year for small income

## HIGHLIGHTS

The formal offer for Edgar Investments sent out last night by Amalgamated Investment and Property contains an increase in the value of the bid and a forecast of higher profits and an increased dividend of 35 per cent, against 22½ per cent, for the year 1971.

The disposables section incurred a substantial loss resulting in a reduction in trading profit to £602,500 from £850,903. The loss is now being arrested, the directors state.

Pre-tax profit came out at £542,000 (£590,493) after a first half increase from £203,339 to £242,430.

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Mr. S. M. Van Gelder is chairman of the company which has interests in textiles and women's clothing.

## A. Cohen setback: 6% cut

METAL REFINERS and manufacturers of non-ferrous alloys, A. Cohen and Co., is reducing its dividend from 31 to 25 per cent for 1970 with a final of 13 per cent.

Group pre-tax profit contracted to £891,375, meaning an indication of not less than the £838,640 for 1970. At halfway it was up from £242,000 to £255,000.

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As reported July 24 group profit before tax, in the year ended March 31, 1971, went up from £50,525 to £92,537 on a turnover of £9,890,000 (£5,684,000).

An analysis shows: engineering £7,180 (£6,94m) sales and £897,000 (£521,000) profit; and consumer products £2,73m. (£2,54m.) and £229,000 (£180,000). Unallocated expenses £200,000 (£180,000). Of total sales £2,100,000 (£1,960,000).

The capital equipment sector was less profitable than expected because of the Ford strike which interrupted production at the Whitlock company. Despite this, Whitlock showed a profit which, however, was eliminated by the 100 per cent write off of expenditure on three new models. These models were very well received and Whitlock is currently operating at a satisfactory level and is in a strong position, reports Mr. Bryesson.

On the consumer products side Woodmet has continued its progress. Although its contribution was not significant in 1970-71 it has now been reorganised and a much improved result is expected.

In the first quarter of the year to March 31, 1971, and significant progress continued to be made in developing the overseas markets for Findlater's Finest and the company's other blended Scotch whiskies.

While the increasing expenditure applied to blending and marketing operations must inhibit short term profitability, the longer term results say Sir Alex.

As reported on July 13, group attributable profit for 1970-71 was £202,000 (£191,032). As before there was no dividend—the company is controlled by London Merchant Securities.

Meeting, Winchester House, E.C. September 2 at 12.45 p.m.

### See Lex

SHARPLY REDUCED first-half profits are reported by the East Lancashire Paper Mill Company, and the interim dividend is halved to 3 per cent. For 1970 the total was reduced from 17 to 13 per cent.

Profit before tax for the six months to June 30, 1971, was £87,720 (£15,645) after increased depreciation of £12,400 (£1,611).

The 1970 profit was £252,142.

Net profit for the half-year was £58,720 (£10,543) after tax of £39,000 (£15,000).

Mr. S. M. Van Gelder is chairman of the company which has interests in textiles and women's clothing.

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After holding up well over the past couple of years East Lancashire has finally succumbed to the paper industry trend and the size of the setback knocked 33p of the shares to 37p last night. Following the losses recently reported by Inveresk and Associated Papers a fall in profits is hardly surprising given the stiff Scandinavian price rises experienced.

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SHARPLY REDUCED first-half profits are reported by the East Lancashire Paper Mill Company, and the interim dividend is halved to 3 per cent. For 1970 the total was reduced from 17 to 13 per cent.

Profit before tax for the six months to June 30, 1971, was £87,720 (£15,645) after increased depreciation of £12,400 (£1,611).

The 1970 profit was £252,142.

Net profit for the half-year was £58,720 (£10,543) after tax of £39,000 (£15,000).

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# SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

## Take-over bids and mergers

The fight for Truman Hanbury Buxton continues and up above the value of Grand Metropolitan Hotel's latest offer, or Truman shares. Watney's advisers said the purchase was significant, but the result of a quick decision to stop the hares falling into the bands of the other side. Further developments in the situation are not expected until the formal documents carrying the GMH revised terms is sent out.

The Bovril saga also goes on and appears more open than the Truman affair. Rowntree Mackintosh and Bovril are discussing the basis for an improved offer which will be announced shortly, while the Argentinian syndicate has followed the example last week by Beecham and appointed financial advisers to look into the situation.

Grand Metropolitan Hotels has become involved in another through its subsidiary, Express Dairy, which is making a cash bid of 15p per share for East Kilbride Dairy Farmers after acquiring 33 per cent of the latter's equity from other parties. East Kilbride directors have approved the offer.

Conway Stewart has given its blessing to an offer from Heenan Fiducial, while Broadview Financial Trust, on the completion of a bid for the shares not already owned in Overseas Financial Trust, will accept a share exchange offer from London and County securities; there is also a cash alternative of 55p a share.

Fordeath directors and their families intend to accept an offer from Fosse Minsep which places a value on the company at £2.7m. Coats Patons is bidding for the 46.76 per cent already owned of West Riding Worsted and Woollen Mills.

The Cunard Board, with the notable dissentients of Mr. Maxwell Joseph and Mr. Donald Forrester, voted for acceptance of slightly increased terms from Trafalgar House.

British Vita has withdrawn its offer for Miles Redfern and Dr. David Lewis has called off his bid for Westminster Property and Investment. Fiducial Engineering and Muntont (Knitting Mills) have rejected their respective suitors. Settle Speakman advises shareholders to refuse the Eastern and General Holdings, though E and G have gained control; Jessel Securities is yet to announce terms for a take-over of Constellation Investments.

Amalgamated Textiles' bid for Settle Speakman has been accepted by holders of 1,384 Ordinary units. These, together with the 156,775 owned by Eastern before the offer, total 1,130 (64 per cent) of Settle.

At the extra-ordinary meeting Eastern held yesterday the solution increasing its authorised capital was passed and the Stock Exchange has granted permission to deal-in and quotation in the Eastern shares to be suspended. The offer has become unconditional and remains open, but the cash offer has closed.

At the meeting, it was stated that, in connection with any cash that may be received from the proposed sale of two subsidiaries of Settle, it was not, at this stage, possible to give any firm information as to how any such cash would be applied without knowing more precise details of the commitments and liabilities of the Settle Group.

However, it was anticipated that, after the reduction of bank and other borrowings in the Settle group, the balance of such proceeds would be applied in developing the retained businesses of Settle.

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## RECENT ISSUES

### EQUITIES

Issue	Date	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield	Issue	Date	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield
1	1971	100	—	—	—	—	1	1971	100	—	—	—	—
2	1971	100	—	—	—	—	2	1971	100	—	—	—	—
3	1971	100	—	—	—	—	3	1971	100	—	—	—	—
4	1971	100	—	—	—	—	4	1971	100	—	—	—	—
5	1971	100	—	—	—	—	5	1971	100	—	—	—	—
6	1971	100	—	—	—	—	6	1971	100	—	—	—	—
7	1971	100	—	—	—	—	7	1971	100	—	—	—	—
8	1971	100	—	—	—	—	8	1971	100	—	—	—	—
9	1971	100	—	—	—	—	9	1971	100	—	—	—	—
10	1971	100	—	—	—	—	10	1971	100	—	—	—	—
11	1971	100	—	—	—	—	11	1971	100	—	—	—	—
12	1971	100	—	—	—	—	12	1971	100	—	—	—	—
13	1971	100	—	—	—	—	13	1971	100	—	—	—	—
14	1971	100	—	—	—	—	14	1971	100	—	—	—	—
15	1971	100	—	—	—	—	15	1971	100	—	—	—	—
16	1971	100	—	—	—	—	16	1971	100	—	—	—	—
17	1971	100	—	—	—	—	17	1971	100	—	—	—	—
18	1971	100	—	—	—	—	18	1971	100	—	—	—	—
19	1971	100	—	—	—	—	19	1971	100	—	—	—	—
20	1971	100	—	—	—	—	20	1971	100	—	—	—	—
21	1971	100	—	—	—	—	21	1971	100	—	—	—	—
22	1971	100	—	—	—	—	22	1971	100	—	—	—	—
23	1971	100	—	—	—	—	23	1971	100	—	—	—	—
24	1971	100	—	—	—	—	24	1971	100	—	—	—	—
25	1971	100	—	—	—	—	25	1971	100	—	—	—	—
26	1971	100	—	—	—	—	26	1971	100	—	—	—	—
27	1971	100	—	—	—	—	27	1971	100	—	—	—	—
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42	1971	100	—	—	—	—	42	1971	100	—	—	—	—
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48	1971	100	—	—	—	—	48	1971	100	—	—	—	—
49	1971	100	—	—	—	—	49	1971	100	—	—	—	—
50	1971	100	—	—	—	—	50	1971	100	—	—	—	—
51	1971	100	—	—	—	—	51	1971	100	—	—	—	—
52	1971	100	—	—	—	—	52	1971	100	—	—	—	—
53	1971	100	—	—	—	—	53	1971	100	—	—	—	—
54	1971	100	—	—	—	—	54	1971	100	—	—	—	—
55	1971	100	—	—	—	—	55						

## WALL STREET + OVERSEAS MARKETS + CLOSING PRICES

## Rally holds in meagre trading

BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

THURSDAY'S RALLY HELD on Wall Street toodly, although trading was at a meagre pace.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rec-upped another 1.6 to 830.61, closing its loss on the week to 7.85, while the NYSE All-Common Index recovered 11 cents on the day to \$32.07 for a decline of 74 cents on the week. Trading volume further decreased 2.61m. shares to 9.49m.

Helping the Stock Market were the July unemployment figures, which showed a rise of 0.2 per cent. from June to a seasonally adjusted 5.8 per cent.

The Administration raised the figures and indicated that unemployment was definitely on the downturn, and looked upon the July figures as corroborating the low June rate, which had been regarded as a statistical "quirk".

In the news background were fears of an increase in the prime rate and the effects of new labour agreements in the Steel and Rail industries. Talk of possible wage-price controls was revived and the Stock Market took some encou-

agement from the Nixon Administration's shift in play in agreeing that debate of such guidelines might prove fruitful.

IBM further declined \$1.1 to \$33.5, but Xerox climbed \$1.1 to \$101, while Polaroid rose \$2.2 to \$104. Dickey improved \$1.1 to \$102.25, has purchased 85 acres of ocean front property in Florida to develop a family camp-ground.

Natomics dipped \$1.1 to \$74.1, following higher second quarter earnings due to an extra-ordinary item.

Airlines did not show much response to UAL's filing with the NYA for domestic fare reductions. UAL closed unchanged at \$31.50, while United \$1.1 to \$31.50, American gained \$1.1 to \$28.10 and Pan Am firms \$1.1 to \$11.1.

Volume leader International Nickel lost another \$1.1 to \$30, due to lower nickel demand, lower earnings and a dividend cut.

Banks and Financials were hesitant, while Investments and Electricals were irregular. Oils advanced.

Germans were weaker, but U.S. issues advanced and International

shares, the lowest since August 17, 1970, when 1.4m. shares crossed the tape.

BOSTON, Aug. 6.—Markets were on late short-covering, following quieter Exchange market conditions. AEG led Electricals higher.

In Bonds, Public Issues gajaoed but Foreign Mark Loans weakened slightly.

AMSTERDAM—Deli firmed in Plantations, while Shiplings were virtually unchanged. Local Industrials quiet. Banks firm, Investment Funds narrowly mixed.

Dutch State Loans quietly mixed.

INTERNATIONAL irregular.

BRUSSELS—Firmer, with Belgian stocks recovering.

Foreign sector dull.

Golds easier.

SWITZERLAND—Well maintained in quiet trading. Most Banks showed small gains.

State Bonds well maintained.

Dollar stocks active and generally well maintained. Dutch shares fluctuated, Germani barely steady.

MILAN—All sectors moved in line, in fairly active trading in the last session before the two week Bourse holiday. The return of buying interest reflected an easing of the political situation following approval of the Housing Reform Law.

STOCKHOLM—Again irregular.

OSLO—Banks and Shiplings steady. Insurances well maintained. Internals irregular.

VIENNA—Very quiet.

OPENING—Mixed in moderate dealings.

TOKYO—Market continued to advance in active trading, 270m. 120m. shares. Interest revived in Insurances in view of European monetary uncertainties. Reports that Finance Ministry was planning to increase National Bond issue also helped. Constructions in again strong.

AUSTRALIA—Mines closed in moderate, while Oils were weaker but Industrials firmed.

New BH rose 20 cents, to \$10.20,

and Bongianni added 5 cents at \$2.85. Peko eased to \$3. Sparges fell 15 cents to \$1.15. Pan

Continental lost 7 cents to \$1.28.

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# Reyrolle Parsons ends U.S. link with Rockwell

BY HAROLD BOLTER, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

REYROLLE PARSONS and the North American Rockwell Corporation have dissolved the joint company they set up a year ago to attack the U.S. market for power station plant. When formed the company said that it aimed to capture about 12.5 per cent of the market, with sales reaching over £100m. a year after a 10-year build-up.

The joint concern, the Rockwell Parsons Corporation, explained yesterday that evaluations made over the last 12 months had shown that the establishment of a factory in the U.S. was not feasible.

Reyrolle Parsons has decided that it can service the growing U.S. market most effectively through its present manufacturing facilities in Canada and the U.K.

## Provide services

It had been indicated earlier that the joint organisation, in which Rockwell and Reyrolle Parsons each made an initial investment of about £420,000, would establish a turbine generator manufacturing facility in the U.S.

The possibility of abandoning the joint U.S. attempt on the American market became

apparent last month when Mr. Willard F. Rockwell, Jr., chairman of the U.S. company, admitted that no orders had been obtained by the joint concern.

Reyrolle Parsons will continue to supply the U.S. market for turbine generators through its own selling organisation and Rockwell has agreed to provide "such services and assistance as may be appropriate."

Reyrolle Parsons said that it had a strong and successful record selling turbine generators in North America, in association with James Howden and Parsons, which has a factory in Ontario, Canada, and that it is supplying 12 machines in the 500 MW range and four of 800 MW each to the Canadian market.

## A big step'

The ending of the ambitious joint venture will come as a disappointment to both groups. The partnership was established after a two-year search by Rockwell, one of the top companies in the U.S.

Twelve months ago, Mr. E. T. Judge, chairman of Reyrolle Parsons, welcomed the formation of the joint company as "a big step in the development of Reyrolle-Parsons' long-term interests in Canada and the U.S."

The possibility of abandoning the joint U.S. attempt on the American market became

## NCB wants Six to look again at energy policy

THE National Coal Board hopes to persuade the European Economic Community to take a new look at its energy policy for Europe, says John Evans, Mr. Denis Evans' new chairman, said in the latest issue of Marketing Magazine.

"As a measure of security we will also emphasise the need for the maintenance of the highest practicable level of coal production as part of the European energy policy to reduce the dependence on imports," he added in an interview.

## Most efficient

Mr. Evans pointed out that the British coal industry is the largest in Western Europe, producing about 135m. tons a year, with West Germany second with 110m. tons. The other countries' industries are much smaller.

The coal industry is the most efficient in terms of financial results and prices—our prices are the lowest and our profitability is the highest," he added.

## DOWTY LICENCE FOR MESSIER SA

Dowty Hydraulic Units has granted to Messier SA (Division Auto-Industrie) in France, a manufacturing licence for the Dowty water jet propulsion unit.

The first manufacturing licence has been granted for water jet units. It will permit Messier to build the eight-inch diameter unit in their factory at Chantilly, near Paris, for installation in military amphibious vehicles.

Mr. Donald Brosnan, chairman and managing director was commenting on published evidence given by Sir John Eden, Minister for Industry, to a sub-committee of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Science and Technology.

He commented that directly connected to Sir John's evidence, computer users were being shut out from access to advancing technology outside Britain.

Mr. Brosnan pointed to ICL where single tenders (non-competitive) had accounted for 94 per cent of that company's Government orders for large machines. Such action severely limited access to all other advancing technology, he maintained.

Mr. Eric Coley and Mr. Ribard Morris have been appointed to the Board of IDEAL-STANDARD. Mr. Coley is general manager of the group's research and development division and Mr. Morris is the managing director of the division.

Mr. Gordon F. Russell has been appointed managing director of the GAMLEN CHEMICAL COMPANY (U.K.). The company has formed a new manufacturing and marketing division under the managing directorship of Mr. David J. Baldwin. The division's works manager will be Mr. A. Fletcher.

Mr. F. G. Berger has resigned from the Board of DUBLINER but will continue as a consultant to the company.

Mr. L. F. Crick has resigned from the Board of REA BROTHERS.

## BOC ends joint U.S. venture

By Arthur Smith

BRITISH OXYGEN and Aireo of New York have agreed to end their joint venture formed in 1967 to win a bigger share of the world market for large-scale oxygen-making plant.

BOC said yesterday that the anticipated increased demand for large air separation units in the U.S. had not materialised, mainly because of the rundown in the aerospace programme and the slow development of oxygen-using processes in the U.S. steel industry.

Moreover, the growth of demand in the U.S. had not been for the large-scale equipment which could profitably be supplied from the manufacturing unit at Edmonton, London.

In September, 1967, two equally-owned joint companies, BOC-Airco Cryogenic Plant, London, and Aireo-BOC Cryogenic Plants, U.S., were formed with a total initial invested capital of about \$4m. Each joint company will sell to the other its share in the joint venture on October 1 this year.

BOC said the Edmonton plant was "far more viable" than in 1967 and the move posed no threat to jobs. The work force has slimmed down from 1,600 at the time of the introduction of the joint venture to about 1,000.

Contracts had been gained in Algeria, South Africa and Finland through the joint venture and BOC emphasised that a very close relationship would be maintained with Alco in the technology of the low-temperature plant. Alco also planned to use BOC as a principal supplier of the low-temperature components for its separation plants.

Mr. Norman Eaton has been appointed director of marketing of the heating and air conditioning division.

Mr. Thomas A. Lyco, vice-president-U.S., manufacturing of American Engine Company of the U.S., is to replace Mr. G. Rehfeldt on the Board of the U.K. subsidiary, CUMMING ENGINE COMPANY LTD., following the latter's retirement as chairman of that company. Mr. Rehfeldt was recently appointed vice-president—sales and service of the parent company.

Mr. J. C. Macfarlane, plant manager at Shotts since May, 1968, has joined the U.K. Board.

Mr. Steven Proctor has been appointed manufacturing executive (hot rolled products) of TUBES, a member of the steel tube division of TUBE INVESTMENTS.

Mr. Colin Croft has been appointed to the Board of HOMFRAY AND CO.

Mr. Geoffrey A. Hunt has been appointed a director of HUNT AND MOSCROP and MIDDLETON BOWL WORKS. Both companies are subsidiaries of Hunt and Moscrop (Middleton).

Mr. John Oxley, programme controller of WESTWARD TELEVISION is leaving the company "on the friendliest possible terms," to devote more time to independent production.

Mr. Terry Fleet will take over programme production, with the title, production controller. He was previously head of news and current affairs. Mr. Michael Warren will become programme planning controller and Mr. John Bartlett, senior programme director.

Mr. John Taylor, director and general manager of KINGS, a Tyneside subsidiary, has been appointed managing director in succession to Mr. W. M. Culbert, who becomes executive deputy chairman.

Mr. W. P. Howard, Mr. B. St. J. C. Carr and Mr. J. C. Brown have joined the Board of GARTONS. Mr. S. Garton, Mr. R. Eaton, Mr. C. T. Hoskins and Mr. W. W. G. Mills have resigned as directors.

Mr. F. G. Berger has resigned from the Board of DUBLINER but will continue as a consultant to the company.

Mr. L. F. Crick has resigned from the Board of REA BROTHERS.

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Wall-Duckham Group (25sp) 94	126
Walters (14sp) 1	481
Walworth (F.W.J.) (25sp) 71-80 220 70-80	2 3 12
Waldy's Wagon Atkinson (25sp) 26 (518)	1
Walton (Bpds) Hedges (25sp) 14 16 2	1
Walton (F.W.J.) (N) (15sp) 15 14	1
Walton's Biscuits (20sp) 142 (3.8) 6pcD.	14 81
Walton-Scriven New (11sp) 161	1
Walton, E. (7sp)pcPf. 413 (5.8)	1
Walton Furniture (5sp) 80 74 1 8	1
Walton's Trailers (10sp) 129 8	1
Walshire Brick (25sp) 135 (4.8) 8pcPf.	1
Walton (5.8)	1
Walshire Dyewares Chemical (25sp) 2036	1
Walshire Fine Woolen Spinners (26sp) 17	1
Walton Carpets (15sp) 1 (25sp) 156 (3.4)	1
Walton (25sp) 100 26 11pcLh. 99 1/4 (4.8)	1
Walton, Austen, Tung (25sp) 98 1/2	1
Walton Corp. (5sp) 17	1
Walton Carburetor A (50sp) 60 77 8	1
Walton Papers (5sp) 17	1
<b>EC. LIGHTING &amp; POWER (6)</b>	1
Walton, J. (Rps) (Mks, Harnas) 935 (4.8)	1
Walton Columbia Elec. 4pc1stMts. 80 Ser.	1
Walton Electric Supply Cpn. 401-8. Got	1
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Walton River Hydro-Electric Power 238 9.	1
Walton, T. (40sp) 5	1
Walton Corp. Canada Shs. n.p.v. 256 46	1
<b>FINANCIAL TRUSTS, ETC. (239)</b>	1
Finance (10sp) 71-80	1
Fin-Continental 125sp 381 1/2 1 91 8	1
Fin-Continent Southern 195	1
Fin-Tst. How (10sp) 44 1/2 5 4 91 1/2	1
Fin-Pcln. 100	1
Fin-Asian Agricul. (25sp) 44 15-81	1
Fin-Asian Estates (25sp) 46 13-81. Do. A	1
Fin-Asian Estates (25sp) 46 13-81. Do. A	1
Fin-Asian Estates (25sp) 46 13-81. Do. A	1
Fin-Merchand. Finance (18sp) 52 4-81	1
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## THE LEX COLUMN

Index rose 1.0 to 395.9

## The confidence balance in equities

The finger has been pointed at Wall Street to explain the London equity market's weakness of late, but the Dow has been in a downturn for some while now, and it seems likely that its recent drop was as much coincidental as causal to the small shake-out to date here—measuring a 4 per cent drop from the peak in the All-Share index. If this is so, then an upswing in the Dow could not be counted on to put heart into our market.

There remain two factors arguing against U.K. equities breaking up through their recent highs in the near future. One is that the political-relation party is presumably over for the moment. The other is that a rise of very rare swiftness has brought share prices exactly back to their peak level of January 1969, as measured by the All-Share. The confidence index now stands very little below its level then, the number of bargains for July (25,000 daily average) was almost up to the old peak's average of 26,000 and all the signs are that the quality of buying has deteriorated significantly since April.

Now in respect of the confidence index (effectively the rating of shares in relation to long-term fixed interest yields), it was justly argued that the speed up in the inflation rate since 1968 required higher reverse yield gaps other things being equal. But the most significant recent changes in the outlook here (and in the U.S.) have concerned the likelihood of a slowdown in the inflation rate, so that this would be no time to expect a further rise in the confidence index, other things being equal—among them being the chances of a swift drop in long interest rates.

That leaves the equity market poised, after a tiny drop, in what majority opinion undoubtedly still takes as a full-blooded bull market. What we have room for now, then, is a more or less brief moment of doubt.

## Merchant Banks

Through 1969 and 1970 the merchant banks showed nothing like the relative strength of the

FT Actuaries Financial Group index as a whole, and Thursday's figures from Keyser Ullmann gave us the main reason why. Reported banking profits were down marginally to £420,000 net after the fall from £478,000 to £422,000 in the previous year. During this period, the conventional merchant banks had their lending expansion restricted by a ceiling that the Dalton Bartons of this world did not have to worry about; and while Keyser still managed to improve its pure banking profits last year it had to contend with a dud equity market which meant meagre activity on bids and new issues while revenue from investment management receded along with market volume.

However, since last March the sector has moved from relative weakness to strength, the stimulus including the relaxation of the ceiling, a strong U.K. equity upturn and (freely, for the smaller brethren) Bowring's take-over of Singer and Friedlander. Though the implementation of Crowther ought to mean the clearing banks

muscling in on corporate finance and other merchant banking preserves, the short-term prospects according to Keyser and Rea Bros. yesterday—growth in profits: Keyser in pure banking, corporate finance and Rea largely in the first category. The problem is that this seems to have been discounted already; neither Keyser, at 145p, or Rea, at 287p, showed any inclination to move further ahead yesterday.

See also Page 14

## London and Midland

London and Midland Industries has shown fair relative strength this year, the shares rising around three-fifths from their low against under two-fifths of the market. That pattern was not upset by the 1970-71 results which took in a second half reverse of 3 per cent before tax, and the accounts now go some way towards explaining why. The Ford strike had damaged output of earth-moving equipment at a time when new model expenditure (including research)

was being written off in full. The net result was nil profit against perhaps £125,000 from this side previously.

Thus there should be some immediate bounce this year, and orders for the new model are high. Elsewhere in the dominant engineering division (four-fifths of 1970-71 profits) the bespoke fastening companies—supplying the shipping, aviation and construction industries—should produce further growth. And so should heating and ventilating where orders are currently around £1.3m. (against nearer £500,000 a year ago) and demand growing in sophistication following quite a break last year into this

hid for Edgar has now emerged from its lengthy shadow-boxing stage with the appearance of the formal documents for an offer which—taking the form of three Amalgamated shares plus 350p of 10% per cent Unsecured Loan stock for every seven Edgar—is worth 174p a share rather than the 150p originally mooted. But the real contestants are still some way from getting to grips with one another given that Development Securities, holding 30 per cent of Edgar, and the Board, with (according to the annual report) a stake over another 10 per cent, are in a position to dictate the outcome.

For the record, last month's All this sounds good for a p/a of 7.4 at 84p. There is the shadow of a £1m convertible funding (still at least four months away) but this has to be set against a ratio of profits to average net employed capital of around 25 per cent.

See also Page 14

## Amalgamated/Edgar

Amalgamated Investment's

See also Page 15

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